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Bill Good & Pamela Martin

CTV

CANADA'S OLYMPIC NETWORK

There is one popular Olympic 'sport' in which all Canadians can participate – Olympic pin collecting.

(Pins not exactly as shown)

For the XXI Olympic Winter Games, CTV will be unveiling an exclusive set of eight commemorative collectable pins.

These limited edition, must-have pins will be handed out to British Columbians at various events and locations leading up-to and during the Games.

To collect these rare Olympic pins, viewers must watch CTV News at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. for details.

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Vancouver Games
Countdown to 2010
Local
• How some are marking the date, pg 3
• Costs, venues, and getting ready, pg 4
• You can be part of toast to athletes, pg 6
Comment & Views
• The politics behind the Games, pg 12
Sports
• Canada's medal hopefuls, pg 15
Tomorrow's Metro
• Unveiling the Olympic torch

Valentine's Day
Matters of the heart
Valentine's Day
• Gifts to show your love, pg 20
Food
• Show you care by making your sweetheart decadent chocolate-fudge brownies and then toast your lover with some bubbly, pg 17
Style
• Spice it up in scarlet under and outerwear, pg 22
Entertainment
• Surviving Mandatory Romantic Gesture Day, pg 22
Tomorrow's Metro
• A selection of the worst love songs and Alan Cross reveals why some romantic ballads can misrepresent your true intentions

KARI MEDIG/FOR METRO CANADA

From left, Whistler Mayor Ken Melamed, VANOC CEO John Furlong, Swatch CEO G.N. Hayek, IOC president Jacques Rogue, Omega president Stephen Urquhart, B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell, IOC co-ordination commission chair Rene Fasel and Federal Minister of State for Sport Gary Lunn pose by the Olympic Countdown Clock at the Whistler Sliding Centre to mark the one-year countdown to the 2010 Olympic Games. More coverage, pages 3-6.

Ready, set, snow!

JEFF HODSON
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VANCOUVER 2010 Games

The final year of preparations for the 2010 Games will be "tenfold" more challenging than any year before it, said VANOC CEO John Furlong last night at an event to mark the one-year countdown to the Games.

About a hundred journalists gathered at the Whistler Sliding Centre last night to watch the Olympic countdown clock turn to 365 days remaining before the Games.

"Just think about it," Furlong said minutes after ringing a final-lap bell. "This time next year the Olympic flame will be metres away from the Olympic Stadium.

"The journey will be coming to an end and it will be the most unbelievable, magical time in the history of our province."

Today, the actual one-year mark (the Olympics begin Feb. 12, 2010), celebrations will take place across B.C. and the country as VANOC has asked all Canadians across every time zone to make noise at 6 p.m.

In Richmond, the province will mark the one-year countdown at 5 p.m. with a celebration at the Richmond Olympic Oval. And in Vancouver, Grammy-winner Sarah McLachlan headlines a sold-out countdown concert. The world will also get its first glimpse of the Olympic torch and torchbearer uniforms during an unveiling ceremony in Whistler.

The next year, Furlong said, will be spent testing systems and programs and "perfecting the experience" that people will have at the Games.

He said he's optimistic that the sports venues are completed — and are testing well with athletes — and that major infrastructure projects, like the Sea to Sky Highway, are nearing completion. One enormous challenge that remains will be the training of tens of thousands of Olympic volunteers.

International Olympics Committee president Jacques Rogge, who toured all the Olympic sporting venues yesterday, said he was pleased with VANOC's progress.

"Everything bodes well for the future of the Games."

Torch online

• VANOC is unveiling the Olympic torch in Whistler this morning. For photo coverage, log on to **metronews.ca** at 9 a.m.

Gunfire, but no suspects, victims: Police

INVESTIGATION RCMP in Langley are trying to piece together details of Metro Vancouver's latest targeted shooting, which took place blocks away from the IGA where a man was shot dead last week.

No suspects or victims were found — only an empty, bullet-riddled black Ford truck — when police arrived at a Tim Hortons parking lot around 3:45 yesterday morning after receiving calls of shots fired.

One of the bullets may have hit the engine, stopping the truck.

Staff at a gas station across the street told police two vehicles had been chasing each other through the pumps before driving across the street to the Tim Hortons, CBC News Online reports.

RCMP Const. Holly Marks said police examined the shot-up pickup truck to see if anyone inside had been hit, but it appeared the bullets missed anyone inside the vehicle.

"Police have made inquiries with local area hospitals to ascertain if anyone with injuries consistent with gunfire has been treated, however they have met with negative results," Marks said.

Investigators are looking at surveillance video of the parking lot taken from nearby businesses.

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A dubious record
Canada is the only country to have staged a Summer Games — in Montreal in 1976, and a Winter Games — in Calgary in 1988, and not to have won a gold medal at either event. Here's to ending that in 2010... METRO VANCOUVER

Local

Nationwide party

Communities around Canada will be celebrating the one-year countdown to the Vancouver Olympics today. Musicians in Newfoundland are playing a symphony from boats in St. John's harbour, Calgary is relighting its Olympic cauldron and the Peace Tower bell will be rung in Ottawa as the Olympic flag is flown over Parliament Hill. METRO VANCOUVER

365 days to go, one big celebration

A taste of how some are marking this important Olympic date in B.C. history

WHISTLER There's an Olympic-sized list of ways Lower Mainlanders can celebrate the one-year countdown to our 2010 Games.

The day kicks off early in Whistler Village Square for the unveiling of the Olympic Torch design and torchbearer uniform at 8 a.m.

The family-oriented event will be attended by Premier Gordon Campbell, IOC president Jacques Rogge and VANOC CEO John Furlong, and will feature fireworks, fire spinners and a cameo by the Olympic mascots.

The party continues that evening with a free concert in Whistler Village Square at 4:40, with performances by Wil Mimnaugh and The Paperboys. KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES
Ville Larinto in action at Whistler Olympic Park.

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

VANCOUVER It'll be the battle of the mascots in the morning as VANOC's Sumi, Quatchi and Miga take on the Canucks' Fin and Mayor Gregor Robertson for a game of floor hockey at Lord Strathcona Elementary School.

At 11:30 a.m., Premier Gordon Campbell and the students at Elsie Roy School in Yaletown will announce the Adopt A Country program, which gives school children from across B.C. a chance to celebrate the Games.

Students from London, England will also be passing on a special message.

The Vancouver Board of Trade and Council of Tourism Association will hold a countdown luncheon at 12:45 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel to discuss tourism opportunities.

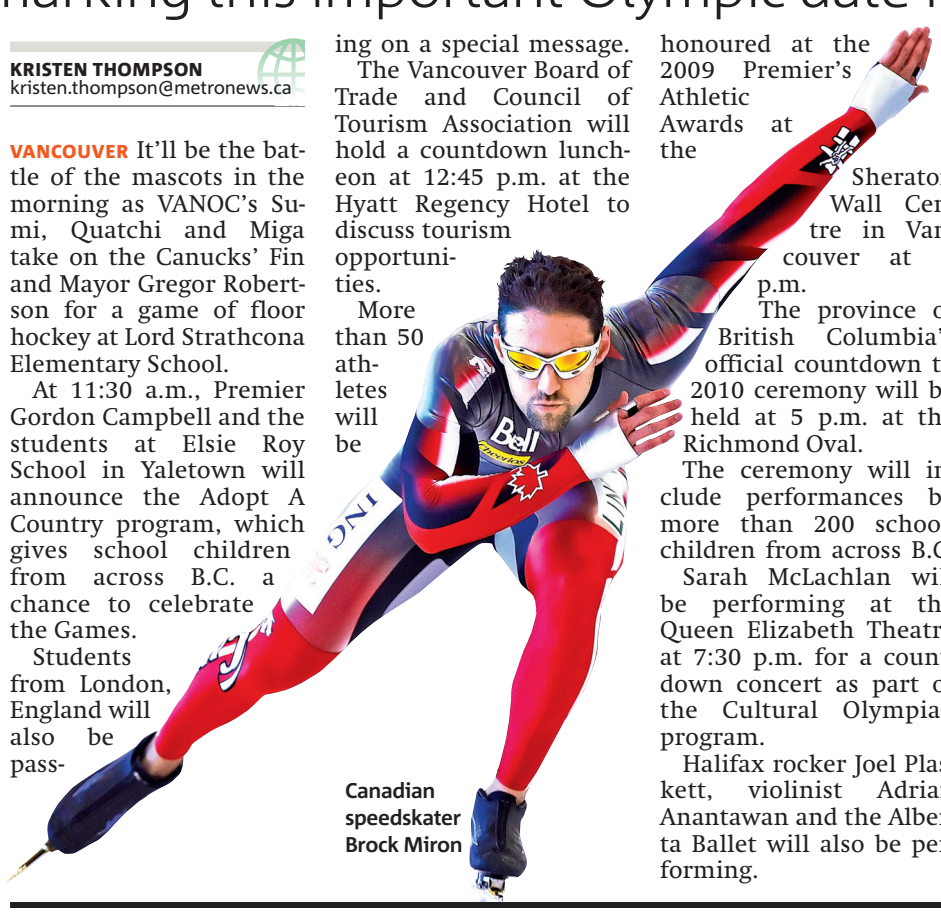
More than 50 athletes will be honoured at the 2009 Premier's Athletic Awards at the Sheraton Wall Centre in Vancouver at 2 p.m.

The province of British Columbia's official countdown to 2010 ceremony will be held at 5 p.m. at the Richmond Oval.

The ceremony will include performances by more than 200 schoolchildren from across B.C.

Sarah McLachlan will be performing at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre at 7:30 p.m. for a countdown concert as part of the Cultural Olympiad program.

Halifax rocker Joel Plaskett, violinist Adrian Anantawan and the Alberta Ballet will also be performing.


Canadian speedskater Brock Miron

TRANSIT SYSTEMS TransLink is encouraging SkyTrain commuters to make as much noise as they can at 6 p.m. to mark the exact moment the Olympic Torch will be lit one year from today.

A pre-recorded announcement will remind people to take part.

All West Coast Express trains will blow their whistles and SeaBuses will blast their horns at 6 p.m.

Starting today, the destination signs on all Coast Mountain buses will alternate with the words, Countdown 2 Gold. As the year progresses, the messages Go Team Canada and Go Canada Go will also be displayed. KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Former prime ministers weigh in on Canada's sagging economy at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Hockey legend Guy Lafleur will stand trial for obstruction of justice at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49	1, 6, 17, 19, 41 & 42 Bonus 31
BC 49	6, 12, 15, 24, 30 & 35 Bonus 37
Extra	51, 54, 83, 88

These results are not official.

DIPLOMA PROGRAMS*

HEALTH CARE — Practical Nursing ✯ | Addictions and Community Services Worker ✓✯ | Intra-Oral Dental Assistant ✓ | Resident Care Attendant ✓✯ | Early Childhood Education ✯ | Veterinary Office Management ✯

BUSINESS & LEGAL — Paralegal ✯ | Business Administration – E-Commerce Management ✯ | Accounting & Payroll Administrator ✓✯ | Travel & Tourism ✓ | International Trade (FITT) ✯ | Legal Administrative Assistant ✓✯

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B.C. Place to be first roof over the Olympic ceremonies
When the opening and closing ceremonies are held at B.C. Place Stadium it will be the first time that an opening ceremony for a Winter Games will have been held inside a domed facility. METRO VANCOUVER

Costs could linger: Expert

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Vancouver

Vancouverites will pay an unforeseen price in the years following 2010's five-ring circus, a local expert is warning.

Zuzana Fromm, an economics professor at BCIT, said it's possible the B.C. government will either raise taxes or cut spending from programs such as education or health care to pay for the Games' net cost.

"The money's got to come from somewhere if they're going to keep a balanced budget and not increase the size of the provincial debt," said Fromm, who authored the 2006 report Economic Issues of Vancouver-Whistler 2010 Olympics.

Premier Gordon Campbell maintained that the province will stay within its $600 million budget; however, B.C. auditor general Arn van Iersel said the total cost will hover around $1.5 billion for the province and $2.5 billion for all of Canada.

This figure is on top of VANOC's $1.76 billion operating budget — recently raised from $1.6 billion — and comprises items not in official estimates such as infrastructure upgrades, $580 million in competition venue construction and the $875 million athletes' village, which VANOC said is a public development only being leased for the Games.

History shows that most Olympic cities carry hefty debts following the Games: It took Montreal 30 years to pay off its $1.5 billion Olympic Stadium; Turin owed nearly $196 million US; and Athens was in the hole for a staggering $17 billion US.

While VANOC insists the Games are on budget, some see the committee's proposal to hand out alpine and Nordic event medals at Whistler venues instead of the $13.6 million, purpose-built Olympic celebration plaza, which would shave off only about $5 million from operating costs — as a sign of just how critical the numbers have become.

"What we have tried to do is maintain the quality of the celebration … but strip away some of the added costs we see as completely unnecessary," said VANOC CEO John Furlong.

Long-term boost for tourism?

Despite Olympic budget increases and the economic downturn, 2010 is shaping up to be a strong year for tourism in Vancouver.

Walt Judas, vice-president of marketing communications and 2010 strategies for Tourism Vancouver, said the Games have already garnered Vancouver more publicity than local tourism agencies would ever be able to afford.

"That international profile … will pay dividends for years to come," he said. "We're not out of the woods (economically) by any stretch, but nonetheless, we're in a good place as it relates to tourism."

Judas estimates that roughly 250,000 to 300,000 people will visit Vancouver during the Olympics.

ANDREA WOO / FOR METRO VANCOUVER

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

Olympic countdown 'intense' for athletes: Bourne

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

NEVIN REID/ALLSPORT

Canadian ice dancers Shae Lynn Bourne and Victor Kraatz perform in 2001.

The Olympics are likely on the minds of most people in Vancouver and Whistler today, but no one more so than the athletes hoping to compete in the Games.

Canadian ice dancer Shae Lynn Bourne, who skated in the 1994, 1998 and 2002 Winter Games, said the only way to describe the countdown year for an athlete is "intense."

"It's such an adrenaline rush when it's a year before because you realize, 'Oh my gosh, my dream is just around the corner,' " Bourne told Metro News yesterday.

"You want to do everything right. It makes the training stressful but you're also excited to get onto the ice. Every minute, you're thinking about it. You go to bed and you think about it."

Bourne said the training schedule and routine likely won't change in the coming year, but athletes will be more driven.

"(In the next year) every commercial will be about 2010 so they'll be (constantly) reminded. It gives them a little extra energy."

She added that for many athletes the last 12 months are even more stressful because the qualifiers aren't held until just before the Games

Bourne, who is now coaching ice dancers and Olympic hopefuls Andrew Poje and Kaitlyn Weaver, said it's more nerve wracking being a trainer.

"I find it easier to go out and skate because then I have that control," she said. "But you just have to sit back and let them do it."

February weather great for Games

WEATHER Despite an early season of icy ski hills and snow-covered streets, conditions in Vancouver and Whistler this week — one year before 2010 — are ideal for the Games, according to an Environment Canada forecaster.

The Winter Olympics are held in mid-February because the weather — no matter the country — is usually benign, said John McIntyre.

"In February you rarely see these big Pacific storms and intense lows (that are characteristic of) November, December and January," he said.

"If it were earlier (in the season), there'd be a risk of huge amounts of snow or rain."

McIntyre said yesterday was a beautiful, sunny day in Whistler. "(Today) is mainly cloudy with isolated flurries. The North Shore mountains are the same."

He added that next week will be a bit colder but conditions will still be great on the hills. KRISTEN THOMPSON / FOR METRO VANCOUVER

60,000 have applied to help in 2010

VOLUNTEERS A common thread among the more than 60,000 people who applied to be volunteers during the 2010 Games is pride, according to the former Olympic athlete interviewing them.

Andy Van Ruyven, who competed in the 1976 Montreal Games, is helping to choose 25,000 volunteers to work the Winter Games and Paralympics.

"There are a lot of other people who are new Canadians," he said. "They want to take the opportunity to show off their adopted country and to show how proud they are of Vancouver."

Donna Wilson, VP workforce for VANOC, said all volunteers will be trained to show their Canadian diversity.

"All of our volunteers will be trained in basic welcoming and thanking French terms so we make sure that the world appreciates that we are a country with two languages," she said. TARYN MCELHERAN / FOR METRO VANCOUVER

City raising the roof for 2010 — slowly

INFRASTRUCTURE With one year to go until the Olympics, all competition venues have been completed and have, or will have, hosted World Cup or national sporting events to test their Games readiness. Non-competition venues are another story.

COMPETITION VENUES

RICHMOND OLYMPIC OVAL (long-track speed skating) — Complete
• The stunning ice oval opened its doors in December and has played host to the Canadian Single Distance Championships.

UBC THUNDERBIRD ARENA (hockey and sledge hockey) — Complete
• Construction was completed in June 2008, four months ahead of schedule.

PACIFIC COLISEUM (skating and short-track speed skating) — Complete
• The aging coliseum received $20.4 million in upgrades including renovated washrooms and the replacement of nearly 16,000 seats. There were also improvements to the ice plant and the building's heating and ventilation system.

WHISTLER SLIDING CENTRE (luge, skeleton, bobsled) — Complete
• Construction began in June 2005 and it opened in the fall.

CANADA HOCKEY PLACE (hockey) — Complete
• A decision by the International Ice Hockey Federation allowed Olympic hockey to be played on North American-sized rinks meant there was no need to significantly alter GM Place. Additional locker rooms will be built before the tournament.

NON-COMPETITION VENUES

VANCOUVER OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC VILLAGE — Under construction
• Vancouver's Olympic village made headlines in recent months. In the fall, cost overruns led to the financer halting payments. They provided funds to keep construction crews working and staff are now creating a plan to finance the deal. They are expected to update council on March 4. The village is set for completion in November.

B.C PLACE (opening and closing ceremonies and nightly celebrations) — Not completed
• Undergoing upgrades. Preliminary venue preparation will start in August.

MAIN MEDIA CENTRE — Almost complete
• Construction on the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre began in November 2004 and should be completed by the middle of March.

OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC VILLAGE WHISTLER — Under construction
• The 350-unit $161-million project is scheduled for completion in October. In December, the resort municipality negotiated a $100-million loan to help pay for it.

ANTI-DOPING FACILITIES — Not completed
• Montreal's Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS)-Institut Armand-Frappier, Canada's only World Anti-Doping Agency approved laboratory will set up shop inside the Richmond Olympic Oval. Setup was supposed to have begun in January and will conclude in December.

JEFF HODSON / METRO VANCOUVER

As of tomorrow Gordon CAMPBELL wants YOU to just SHUT UP

» Campbell's new election rules — effective tomorrow — try to censor, silence and intimidate anyone concerned about his government's policies

The B.C. government's new election gag law severely restricts the ability of any organization to speak out on behalf of seniors, students, children, patients, resource communities, working families, women, or the vulnerable.

The gag law imposes extreme limits on advertising and communications on any public issue in B.C. – whether it's homelessness, the environment, provincial budget cuts to services families count on, the costly failure of P3 privatization or the massive Olympic cost overruns.

The gag law takes effect tomorrow and won't be lifted until after the May 12th election.

No other government in Canada has undertaken such an unprecedented attack on freedom of speech.

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Visit JustShutUpBC.com to join the virtual rally and tell the Campbell government you won't be silenced.

B.C. firefighters offering assistance Down Under

Two senior members of the B.C. Forest Service flew to Australia yesterday to see how our crews might be able to help fight rampaging bushfires there. Two years ago, 52 firefighters from B.C. went to Australia to help fight with another massive fire Down Under. METRO VANCOUVER

Bird flu found on second farm

Avian influenza has been found on a second poultry farm in Abbotsford, but it appears to be the same less-virulent strain as found on a farm last month, officials said yesterday.

The virus was found on a farm within the three kilometre quarantine and testing zone that was set up around a turkey farm where the disease was first detected, the Canada Food Inspection Agency said.

The case poses little if any threat to human health, officials said.

Twelve thousand breeding chickens on the latest farm will have to be destroyed because of the virus. Last month's discovery of the virus led to the destruction of 60,000 turkeys.

CFIA said it is not known yet how the birds at the second farm became infected and they are not aware of any connection between the two farms.

REUTERS

Quarantine

- Forty-three poultry farms in the Fraser Valley have been placed under quarantine for testing because of the discovery.

Mountain costs not finalized

OLYMPICS NDP Leader Carole James told CBC News that rental costs are not finalized in the deal to rent Whistler and Cypress mountains for the 2010 Olympics.

She said taxpayers could end up having to pay more because of the global economic crisis.

Fortress Investment Group LLC, the company that owns Intrawest, Whistler's operator, has been hard hit, with its stock falling to about $1.65 from a high of $16 a year ago.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Staff at Molson's Kitsilano brewery celebrate the unveiling of the 2010 Mural Project yesterday. Tens of thousands of photos of Canadians will be added to the giant collage ahead of the Olympics.

A toast to athletes with collage

VANCOUVER 2010 **Games**

Canadians from coast to coast are being invited to raise a glass — or a bottle — in support of our athletes as the nation counts down to the 2010 Games in Vancouver.

Molson Canadian, a 2010 sponsor and the company that made patriotism cool with its I Am Canadian campaign, announced a project yesterday to create a giant photo collage of Canadians toasting our athletes.

The 2010 Mural Project will cover a nearly 4,000-square-foot section of Molson's Kitsilano brewery with the first 250 photos — employees from that location — being added yesterday.

When all the pictures are put together and unveiled on the eve of the Games it will reveal one big image.

"The (project) will give Canadians from all corners an opportunity to share a personal connection with the Games and show our athletes we stand proudly behind them," said David Bigioni, brand director with Molson Canadian.

KRISTEN THOMPSON /METRO VANCOUVER

Mural Project

- Any Canadian of legal drinking age can upload a personal photo at 2010muralproject.ca.
- The final mural will be sold as a poster with proceeds going to the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Teams.

News in brief

BRAIDWOOD INQUIRY A YVR employee who offered to help interpret for Robert Dziekanski testified yesterday his help was turned down by staff just before the Polish immigrant died, CBC News Online reports. Karol Vrba, who speaks Polish, told the Braidwood Inquiry that he was "shocked" he wasn't called to help.

FERRY SURVIVORS Some of the survivors of the Queen of the North say they'd rather take B.C. Ferries to court than accept a proposed settlement, CBC News Online reports. Barney Dudoward, who says he was traumatized by the ordeal, called B.C. Ferries' $2,500 settlement offer "laughable."

CHILD PORN ARREST A 68-year-old New Westminster man has been arrested for possession and distribution of child pornography, police said yesterday. The man's identity is being withheld pending his first court appearance.

YVR RUNWAY The union representing workers at YVR is demanding an inquiry into why a small plane veered off the runway in a snowstorm last month, damaging its nose gear. The union alleges the runway wasn't properly cleared and the accident could have been worse.

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Lougheed Mall
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7531 Market Crossing
111 - 3823 Henning Dr.
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Cottonwood Mall
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Scottsdale Mall
7235 120th St.
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Langley
Walnut Grove Town Centre
Willowbrook Shopping Centre
3 - 19638 Fraser Hwy.
103 - 19700 Langley Bypass
C104 - 20159 88th Ave.
19971 96th Ave.
C7 - 20202 66th Ave.

Maple Ridge
22661 Lougheed Hwy.

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100 - 32670 Lougheed Hwy.
318 - 32555 London Ave.

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127 - 1199 Lynn Valley Rd.
1295 Marine Dr.
1748 Lonsdale Ave.
1392 Main St.

Port Moody
202 Newport Dr.

Pitt Meadows
735 - 19800 Lougheed Hwy.

Richmond
Aberdeen Centre
Admiralty Centre Mall
Ironwood Mall
Lansdowne Mall
Parker Place
Richmond Centre
115 - 12571 Bridgeport Rd.

Surrey
Central City Shopping Centre
Guildford Town Centre
201 - 13734 104th Ave.
135 - 12477 88th Ave.
2404 King George Hwy.
1675 128th St.
108 - 7380 King George Hwy.
403 - 15940 Fraser Hwy.
10310A 152nd St.

West Vancouver
Park Royal Shopping Centre
North/South

White Rock
Semiahmoo Shopping Centre
10 - 3189 King George Hwy.

OKANAGAN/NORTHERN BC

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Northills Centre (Kamloops)
Orchard Park Mall (Kelowna)
Spall Plaza (Kelowna)
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No pay raise for federal judges

Canada's 1,000 federally appointed judges, who were seeking to push their remuneration to $307,000 by 2011, were told yesterday they must live with salary restraints similar to other public servants. The base pay for most is currently about $260,000, and the hike would have represented an 18 per cent increase. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada

Lafleur to stand trial

A Montreal judge yesterday ordered hockey legend Guy Lafleur, left, to stand trial on charges of obstructing justice. Lafleur's lawyers tried to have the charges thrown out because police arrested Lafleur instead of issuing a simple summons, but the judge disagreed. The obstruction charges stem from conflicting testimony given by Lafleur at the September 2007 trial of his son, Mark. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ban foreign workers: Senator

A Liberal senator is calling for a "Canadians First" jobs policy, saying that temporary foreign workers should be banned from the country for stealing jobs from the growing ranks of unemployed Canadians.

New Brunswick Senator Pierrette Ringuette is urging the Conservative government to halt the foreign worker program "so that Canadians will have the first opportunity to obtain these jobs and to work in Canada."

"In the current fiscal situation, we provide foreign workers with visas to work in Canada while we have Canadians seeking jobs." Senator Pierrette Ringuette

"In the current fiscal situation, we provide foreign workers with visas to work in Canada while we have Canadians seeking jobs," she said in the Senate on Tuesday.

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney called Ringuette's comments "really unfortunate," saying that despite rising unemployment, some jobs across the country are going unfilled.

"There are jobs out there that are going unfilled, businesses that would go under without access ... to immigrant labour," Kenney told reporters yesterday.

Last year, some 170,000 foreigners worked in Canada under the program. But Kenney said he expects a significant drop in the number of foreign workers this year as job offers dry up in the face of the economic meltdown.

The Liberals yesterday said that the senator's comments do not represent official party policy.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Khadr not on agenda for Obama visit, says official

POLITICS Prime Minister Stephen Harper does not intend to raise the Omar Khadr file, nor does he expect it to be raised by U.S. President Barack Obama next week, a senior government official says.

Obama's office has not yet signed off on an agenda for next Thursday's meeting, which is slated to focus on the economy and include discussions of energy, the environment and Afghanistan, said Harper spokesperson Kory Teneycke.

Yesterday, Canada's three opposition leaders released an open letter calling on Harper and Obama to act to bring Khadr, 22, back to Canada from the U.S. prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Harper's office says it has received no indication Obama wants to discuss Khadr, given Obama's appointment of a high-level task force to recommend "the prompt and appropriate disposition" for detainees at Guantanamo.

"Why would he?" Teneycke said. "He's put in place a process."

Harper has said he will await the recommendation of the task force.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In doubt

- The letter released yesterday by opposition leaders cites "significant ambiguity" in the evidence about Omar Khadr's role in the armed conflict in Afghanistan and "whether he is guilty of any criminal misconduct."

Charges laid after assault on bus driver, senior in Edmonton

ALBERTA Edmonton police have laid assault charges after a man allegedly went berserk onboard a city bus and at a bus stop late Tuesday night.

A 67-year-old man waiting at a bus stop was injured after he was allegedly attacked by a man shortly before 11:55 p.m., police said.

A man tried to get onboard a bus arriving at the stop during the alleged assault, but he was denied by the driver, police said.

Angry over the refusal, police said the suspect spat on the driver twice as he physically fought with the driver, who was able to hold the man until city cops arrived.

The 67-year-old suffered minor injuries, while the driver was rushed to hospital for treatment.

Jarrett Clatence Makokis, 30, has been charged with two counts of assault. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Polls **Conservatives losing ground**

CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

The federal Conservatives are losing popularity over their handling of the economic crisis and are now almost tied for public support with the Liberals, according to two new polls. A Nanos Research survey put the Conservatives at 34 per cent support and the Liberals at 33 per cent. A Strategic Counsel survey put the Conservatives at 32 per cent and the Liberals at 33 per cent.

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Class action suit targets poor train service
A Montreal man is seeking up to $65 million in a class action suit filed against a regional transit agency, which he says has provided poor service. He wants the Agence metropolitaine de transport to offer 30 per cent refunds on monthly passes. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Soldiers beat man, court hears

Three Canadian soldiers took part "in a vicious three-on-one fight" in Toronto's Entertainment District two summers ago, leaving a young man lying unconscious with a fractured skull, a jury was told yesterday.

Ryan Crossman, Ryan Livesey and Sean Jones, all in their 20s, have pleaded not guilty to aggravated assault.

Outlining the prosecution's case yesterday, Crown Attorney Lorna Spencer said Hesam Zeinal-Zedeh and his girlfriend, Nasim Mahani, were downtown on July 14, 2006, wandering through the crowds when three men, who appeared to be intoxicated, approached them.

"One of the men aggressively approached Nasim," Spencer said.

"He was excessively close to her and he was starting to touch her ... Hesam came to her defence and told the men to stop."

The young woman "watched in horror as the three men beat her boyfriend. Two each held one of his arms, while the third man, in a green shirt, punched Hesam." Zeinal-Zedeh fell and struck his head, landing under a parked van.

Livesey, who was arrested shortly after, was wearing a green shirt, Spencer said.

Two witnesses are expected to testify about watching three men assaulting another man.

Zeinal-Zedeh, 25, testified he doesn't remember a lot about the fight and was physically disabled for months.

The trial continues.

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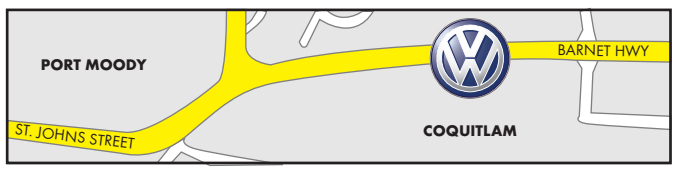

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Ontario premier tells media to back off

SCRUMS Ontario is in recession, its economy shedding jobs by the tens of thousands, and the provincial budget next month is expected to show a deficit of perhaps $10 billion.

But one of the more pressing concerns for Premier Dalton McGuinty is that journalists are standing too close to him.

McGuinty has ordered aides to instruct the Queen's Park Press Gallery that he no longer wishes to participate in media "scrums" that politicians have endured for years.

The premier has decreed that reporters question him from a distance "of at least five feet," usually in locales suitably decorated with red Ontario ensigns and Maple Leaf flags.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mole pushed 'perverse ideology,' lawyers argue

TERROR CASE A religious leader, a drill sergeant and an agent provocateur.

Those were some of the roles played by police mole Mubin Shaikh at a so-called terrorist training camp where he promoted a "perverse ideology, militant version of Islam" and induced a youth to commit terror-related offences, defence lawyers said yesterday.

The comments were made as Mitchell Chernovsky and Faisal Mirza concluded arguments on a motion they brought forth alleging Shaikh was a state agent who entrapped their client when Shaikh infiltrated an alleged terror cell known as the Toronto 18.

Shaikh used his "powers of persuasion and influence" at the December 2005 camp, said Mirza, arguing his religious knowledge and role as a trainer enabled him to prey on the then-17-year-old.

Crown prosecutors have maintained Shaikh only became a police agent when he signed a formal contract with the RCMP in February 2006.

The defence is seeking that the charge against their client be stayed. He was charged alongside 17 adults and youths in the summer of 2006 for belonging to a group that was allegedly planning to storm Parliament Hill.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Alberta targets gangs

THRONE SPEECH Alberta officials are putting a hit out on rising gang crime.

Promises made in the province's throne speech were echoed by officials yesterday, who elaborated on commitments to tackle gang culture and fleets of chop-shop armoured vehicles.

"We need to take a much broader perspective than just enforcement," said Andy Weiler, a spokesman for Alberta's solicitor general.

A summit, to be held in late spring, will bring law enforcement officials together with community leaders.

Plans are in place to "tighten rules" around vehicle modifications, like armour-plating, bullet-proof glass and surveillance cameras.

Canadian gang expert Michael C. Chettleburgh said he feels it's time Alberta "put its money where its mouth is" when addressing the growing gang problem, and focus on prevention over prohibition.

"Virtually everything gangs are doing already is illegal anyway," Chettleburgh said. "I'm not sure what practical difference it will make."

Though bulletproofing and securing hiding spots in vehicles is already prohibited in Alberta, Chettleburgh said officials are turning a blind eye to chop-shops that are likely fronted and operating within the province.

Infrastructure spokesman Jerry Bellika said it's believed vehicles are being armed outside the province.

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES / METRO CANADA

Ottawa transit refund on hold

REFUND A plan to offer refunds to Ottawa-area transit riders affected by a recently ended strike has been left in limbo after city councillors were unable to find agreement on the price to be paid for the incentive program.

The proposed plan, as advertised on the OC Transpo website, offered December pass holders a free ride until the end of March and EcoPass holders would not receive paycheque deductions until the end of April.

METRO CANADA

Peanut firm owner refuses to testify on salmonella

The owner of Peanut Corp. of America, the company blamed for a salmonella outbreak that may have killed eight people, refused to answer questions before Congress yesterday, while internal company memos showed him complaining about loss of profits while the scare was investigated. REUTERS

World

It pays to quit smoking

A study of 878 General Electric workers at 85 different facilities around the United States found that people were three times more likely to stay off cigarettes for at least six months if they were rewarded up to $750 US. Earlier studies suggested cash incentives did not work, but those tests had used rewards as low as $10. REUTERS

Stimulus finalized at $789B

U.S. congressional negotiators yesterday reached a deal on $789 billion US in emergency spending and tax cuts, handing a big victory to U.S. Presi-dent Barack Obama in his effort to pull the economy out of a steep tailspin.

Negotiators in the House and Senate overcame an apparent last-minute snag on funding to help states plug growing budget deficits and money to renovate schools that Obama had sought.

The huge package is aimed at reversing a deep recession and news of the compromise sent U.S. stock markets higher. A majority of negotiators approved the deal, possibly setting up votes in the House and Senate today, but the timing could slip.

Obama said in a statement the deal would help save or create millions of jobs and "provide immediate tax relief to families and businesses, while investing in priorities like health care, education, energy and infrastructure that will grow our economy once more." REUTERS

By the numbers

- About 36 per cent of the package is in tax cuts; the rest is in spending. Individuals will receive $400; couples will receive $800.
- A Republican senator said a $54-billion fund will help states plug growing deficits and modernize schools.

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Octuplets mom goes into hiding with 6 kids

CONTROVERSY California's octuplets mom, already jobless and receiving food stamps, has gone into hiding with her six older children, ages two to seven, in "an undisclosed location" because of death threats, her spokesman said yesterday.

Nadya Suleman, 33, has come under mounting public ridicule for expanding her already large family via fertility treatments that led to the Jan. 26 birth of six boys and two girls.

That criticism has mushroomed as it was reported that she was divorced, living with her parents, unemployed for several years, receiving disability checks for three of her children — one of whom is autistic — and collecting nearly $500 a month in food stamps.

She acknowledged those circumstances in a series of NBC television interviews but insisted in a segment aired on Tuesday on Dateline NBC that she was "not living off any taxpayer money" and that assistance she now receives is temporary.

"They ... refer to her (as) a person who's taking advantage of the system."
Michael Furtney on threats against Nadya Suleman

Suleman's spokesman Michael Furtney said Suleman and the PR firm have been deluged with hostile phone calls and emails containing threats of violence and death.

"The bulk of them just rail against her being, as they would refer to her, a person who's taking advantage of the system," Furtney said. REUTERS

U.S. sanctions on alleged Tiger affiliate

SANCTION The U.S. Treasury imposed sanctions yesterday on a Maryland foundation accused of being part of a support network for the Tamil Tiger rebel group battling the Sri Lankan government.

The Tamil Foundation was a front for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the Treasury said. The sanctions allows the government to freeze all assets in the United States and prohibits U.S. banks and consumers from conducting business deals with it.

The head of the Tamil Foundation is also president of the Tamils Rehabilitation Organization, which was named in 2007 as a terrorist support group under a White House executive order.

REUTERS

Oklahoma **Tornado aftermath**

JESSICA RINALDI/REUTERS

Dylan Franks, 2, plays amid tornado damage in Lone Grove, Okla., yesterday. A tornado killed eight people and injured 14 when it struck the small town Tuesday night. Up to 30 people were still missing, officials said. Local media are reporting the death toll could climb to 15.

Israel faces gridlock after vote

ELECTION Israel headed for political gridlock yesterday with both sides declaring victory.

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni's centrist Kadima party won the most votes with 28 seats, but had little chance of building enough support for a resilient coalition government. Right-wing opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu, with 27 seats, can get the backing in parliament, but analysts said the likely alliance would prove dysfunctional.

"I won," read the headline of the country's biggest newspaper, Yedioth Ahronoth, over photographs of both leaders. But to some commentators, the rival claims showed that Israel had lost.

"One thing is clear to all Israeli voters ... The political system is shattered."
Eitan Haber of Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper

"One thing is clear to all Israeli voters," said the paper's Eitan Haber. "The political system is shattered."

Israeli President Shimon Peres must now decide whether to call on Livni or Netanyahu, who then has 42 days to form a government. An official election tally is due out by Feb. 18, after which Peres would have a week to make his nomination.

As the parties began negotiating possible pacts, Israeli media said it seemed Peres would have no choice but to tap Netanyahu if the majority rightists all back him.

It would be the first time in Israel's 60-year history that the winner of an election would be passed over.

Avigdor Lieberman's far-right Yisrael Beiteinu party, which surged to third place in the ballot, met Livni and Netanyahu on Wednesday, appearing to favour the latter though he deferred any decision. Another linchpin party, the conservative Shas, held it own talks with the Likud.

"We want a nationalist government. We want a rightist government," Lieberman said. REUTERS

China rejects rights suggestions

RIGHTS China rejected calls from Western and some Latin American countries yesterday to end the death penalty and to agree to enforce human rights, including allowing independent labour unions.

But it agreed to suggestions by Cuba that it ensure firm action against "self-styled human rights defenders working against the Chinese state and people" and from Iran to reinforce censorship of the Internet to limit "defamation of religion."

China's stance on these and other issues emerged in United Nations Human Rights Council in Monday's discussions of Beijing's rights record.

During the three-hour session, Chinese officials had already dismissed many recommendations on rights reform and greater rights for ethnic minorities such as Tibetans and Uighurs as political propaganda unworthy of discussion. REUTERS

UN discussions

- The debate came in the United Nations Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review procedure that all UN members are expected to undergo every four years.

Low blood sugar, sex drug linked

STUDY Illegal anti-impotence drugs and herbs contaminated with the diabetes drug glyburide have caused some 150 cases of dangerously low blood sugar, researchers in Singapore reported yesterday.

Four people have died, they said in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The drugs include counterfeit Cialis and herbal preparations with names such as Power 1 Walnut and Santi Bovine Penis Erecting Capsule, Shih Ling Kao of National University Hospital said.

REUTERS

Russian troops kill 7 alleged rebels

RUSSIA Interior Ministry troops shot dead seven suspected rebels yesterday in a firefight in Russia's North Caucasus region of Kabardino-Balkaria, media reported, quoting local law enforcement.

The fighting began when the alleged rebels resisted arrest following an attempted raid on a suspected rebel hideout in a forested mountain region. REUTERS

News in brief

GIVEAWAY You may have lost your job or home, but you can still get your Valentine's Day gift for your sweetheart, thanks Diamonds Direct of St. Petersburg, Fla. The jewelry store is giving away 100 sterling silver pendants worth $99 US to anyone who comes into the store with a job termination or home foreclosure notice. The store has already given away 75 of the necklaces, a spokeswoman said, mostly to laid-off professional or technical workers. REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Comment

The conundrum over Afghanistan

Home&Abroad

Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

For months, perhaps years, we have heard how the situation in Afghanistan is deteriorating.

The spread of corruption, the return of the Taliban, the ineptitude of the police, the mounting violence, as we saw again yesterday — all suggest a war that seems unwinnable in a country that seems ungovernable.

Last weekend, in Munich, representatives of NATO met to discuss the Afghan war, which has been going on since the fall of 2001.

The United States sent its vice-president, its secretary of state and its newly appointed special envoy to the region, the highly esteemed former ambassador, Richard Holbrooke.

How bad are things? This is how Holbrooke put it: "Let's not kid ourselves: The task ahead of us is far, far more difficult than anything that has been said this morning. I have never, in my experience in the U.S. government that started in Vietnam, ever seen anything as difficult as the situation that confronts the countries involved in Afghanistan and Pakistan at this point. We've only scratched the surface."

Holbrooke noted, with disdain, the members of NATO who pledge help and deliver none. In the distribution of foreign assistance, he lamented that he has "never remotely seen anything like the mess we've inherited." On the whole, he said, the challenge in Afghanistan is "tougher than Iraq."

(For these references, I am indebted to my colleague, Paul Wells of Maclean's, the only Canadian journalist to cover the conference. He has posted some of the proceedings on his blog).

What Holbrooke says is supported by Ahmed Rashid, the Pakistani journalist and author who has written widely on Afghanistan. In Descent Into Chaos, he says Iraq is a sideshow. Afghanistan is the home of the Islamic insurgency, and we're losing — though he adds that it isn't too late.

And what about Canada, which plans to leave Afghanistan in 2011? Defence Minister Peter MacKay, Canada's lone representative at the conference, offered a few platitudes, but concluded, "the Alliance has achieved notable successes in Afghanistan."

He said, though, that "we still have a long way to go." It neatly sets up the critical question for Canada as the Americans, who are sending more troops to Afghanistan, ask us to reconsider our departure.

Will we note the successes, declare victory and leave? Or will we acknowledge the failures, fear defeat and stay?

Andrew Cohen teaches journalism at Carleton University. He is the author of Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson.

Views

Political games behind the 2010 Games

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan

Journalist & Media Consultant

The 2010 Winter Olympics are exactly one year away.

I suspect most Canadians greeted by that news will smile a little and start hoping we win lots of medals, or, if nothing else, gold in hockey.

The last time we hosted the Winter Olympics, in Calgary in 1988, we all had a good time, but Canada didn't win any gold medals. This time we look good for gold in skiing, snowboarding, hockey, skating, and maybe even a couple of sledding events.

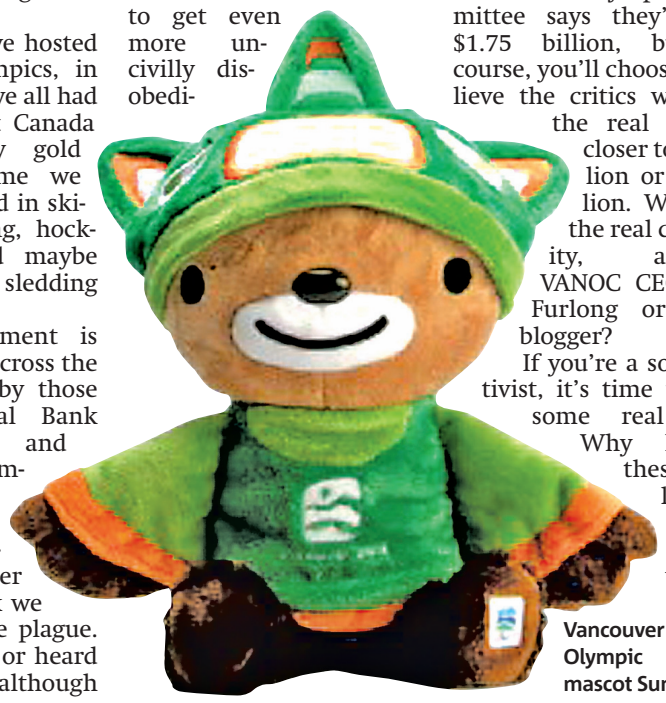
So the excitement is starting to build across the country, fuelled by those cute little Royal Bank Olympic torch and Petro-Canada commemorative glass tumbler ads.

Here in Vancouver, on the other hand, you'd think we were beset by the plague.

I've never seen or heard anything like it, although it's probably the same in every city awarded the dubious distinction of hosting an Olympics. The Games have become the scapegoat for every social activist, environmentalist, anarchist, conspiracy theorist, not to mention a vast array of uncategorized unhappy campers.

Now that there's one year to go, that's the signal to ramp up the wailing, the gnashing of teeth.

If you're an environmentalist, it's time to get even more uncivilly disobedient over the loss of arbutus groves and animal habitat to make way for improvements to the Sea To Sky Highway to Whistler.



Vancouver Olympic mascot Sumi

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

If you're a taxpayer, it's your cue to get increasingly furious that no one really knows how much the Games will cost, but you know you'll get stuck with the bill. Right now, the Vancouver Olympic Committee says they'll cost $1.75 billion, but, of course, you'll choose to believe the critics who say the real cost is closer to $6 billion or $7 billion. Who has the real credibility, anyway? VANOC CEO John Furlong or some blogger?

If you're a social activist, it's time to kick some real butt. Why haven't these billions gone to provide shelter for the homeless, help the sick and feed the poor? Instead of spending $1 billion on a stupid convention centre (when you already have one) just spend it on eliminating homelessness. Spray paint the Olympic countdown clock. That'll teach 'em.

I sometimes suspect, as he takes shot after shot, British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell wishes the damn Games had gone to Pyeongchang, Korea, after all.

But if he was watching the Super Bowl the other day, he might have started feeling a little better — he would have seen, along with millions of other viewers, a terrific plug for Vancouver and the 2010 Games. I suspect that the farther away you are, the better we look, and thanks to the magic of U.S. network TV, we've never looked better, despite the onset of the plague.

Now, if only we can make it through the next 12 months. Let the pre-games games begin.

Do you agree or disagree? Email Paul Sullivan at vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

metro

Letters

Don't believe something without searching for truth

Re: Delegates decry flower trade (Feb. 10)

As a Colombian and professional in international commerce, I was saddened to see how a small group of people got people's attention with "unreal" news.

Before I came to Vancouver, I used to live in Medellin, Colombia. It was called "the capital of the flowers" before being called "the capital of cocaine." It's not easy for Colombians to change people's minds about our country, so we try to do so with good things like flowers, coffee, bananas, coal and other products.

We had a farm beside these camps and I never saw 10-year-old children working on these fields.

Canadians, please do not believe something without searching for the truth.

LUIS ARDILA, VANCOUVER

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Starbucks begins announced job cuts
Starbucks Corp. yesterday said it issued more than 1,000 pink slips related to its newest round of job cuts. The coffee chain in January said it would close 300 additional outlets and slash as many as 7,000 jobs as it cuts costs. **REUTERS**

Business

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WestJet earnings drop 46%

RESULTS WestJet Airlines Ltd., Canada's No. 2 carrier, said yesterday its fourth-quarter earnings fell 45.9 per cent due to the turmoil in the economy that has affected the entire airline industry, and warned that its first-quarter results may be weaker.

The company earned $40.8 million, or 32 cents a share, in the quarter, down from $75.4 million, or 57 cents, in the fourth quarter of 2007.

While airlines have benefited from a plunge in fuel costs, the weak economy is squeezing profits. **REUTERS**

RIM sees profit at lower end

EARNINGS BlackBerry maker Research in Motion yesterday forecast profit at the low end of expectations because businesses are not buying its latest smartphone upgrades in the economic downturn.

RIM's shares tumbled more than 15 per cent after the warning, which overshadowed an unexpected jump in BlackBerry subscriptions. The company said net subscriber account additions are running 20 per cent higher than the 2.9 million it forecast on Dec. 18. **REUTERS**

Canada posts trade deficit

Canada unexpectedly posted its first trade deficit in almost 33 years in December on plunging exports and weakness in the crucial U.S. market, prompting analysts to predict the days of regular multibillion-dollar surpluses were over for the time being.

Statistics Canada said yesterday that the December deficit was $460 million, the first deficit since the $79 million recorded in March 1976. Analysts had on average predicted a surplus of around $800 million after the $1.16-billion surplus in November.

"It's predictable when we're in a worldwide downturn ... and some of our major purchasers ... are going through very difficult times." Stockwell Day

The figures demonstrate just how seriously the global crisis is hurting Canada, a leading commodity producer that relies heavily on trade with the United States. They also reflect the impact of lower energy prices.

Exports fell by 9.7 per cent to $35.30 billion — the fastest month-on-month decrease since the 14.2 per cent recorded in October 1982 — on the falling value of energy products and industrial goods.

Imports dropped by 5.7 per cent to $35.76 billion on lower volumes of machinery, automotive products and industrial goods. Exports to the United States — which take around 75 per cent of all Canada's exports — dropped by 10 per cent.

"It's predictable when we're in a worldwide downturn ... and some of our major purchasers — the United States, China — are going through very difficult times and therefore they're buying less," said Trade Minister Stockwell Day. **REUTERS**

Business in brief

MADOFF The wife of Bernard Madoff withdrew more than $15 million US from an account linked to the accused swindler in the days before his arrest, Massachusetts authorities said yesterday, adding a new layer of intrigue to the probe of the purported $50-billion scam.

GAS Regulatory delays have worsened the odds that the $16.2-billion Mackenzie gas pipeline in Canada's Far North will ever be built despite a promise of help from Ottawa, TransCanada Corp.'s chief executive Hal Kvisle said yesterday.

TELECOM BCE Inc. reported a fourth-quarter loss yesterday of $48 million, reflecting restructuring charges and investment writedowns, but it expects earnings to rise more than five per cent in 2009. **REUTERS**

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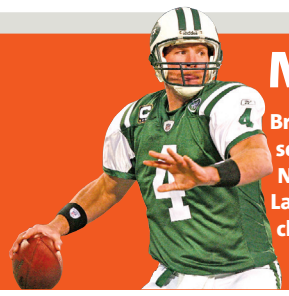
Tejada pleads guilty
Five-time baseball all-star Miguel Tejada pleaded guilty in U.S. federal court yesterday to lying to Congress about his knowledge of other baseball players using steroids. Tejada will be sentenced March 25. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Maybe this time it will take

Brett Favre told the New York Jets yesterday he was retiring after 18 seasons, ending a record-setting career in which he became one of the NFL's all-time greats. He or the team does not expect a change of heart. Last March, Favre announced his retirement from the Packers only to change his mind three months later and force a trade to the Jets.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN CHICK, JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

10 to watch in '10

VANCOUVER 2010 **Games**

One year from today, the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics begin. Here are 10 Canadian medal hopes to keep in mind:

Jenn Heil, women's moguls
She put Canada on the board with Olympic gold on opening day in Turin in 2006 and there'll be intense pressure on her to do it again in Vancouver when women's moguls once again is on the first day of competition.

Pierre Lueders, two-man bobsleigh
He's going to have hundreds more runs on the Olympic layout in Whistler than his competitors plus he finally has a decent budget for equipment.

Kristina Groves, long track speedskating
She's been racking up impressive results for six years now, but on a team with Jeremy Wotherspoon, Cindy Klassen and Clara Hughes, it's hard for her to get a little attention. But with Klassen and Wotherspoon both trying to come back from serious injury next year, Groves could be the team's star.

Kristina Groves

Steve Omischl, men's aerials
He's won everything else in his sport: a world title, and three Crystal Globes as the overall World Cup freestyle aerials champion.

Canada's hockey teams
The men will be led by NHL stars like Sidney Crosby and Jarome Iginla and should face their toughest opposition from Russia and Sweden. On the women's side, barring any big upsets, it will be Canada vs. the U.S. for gold for the fourth-straight Olympics.

Canada's curling teams
Reigning world champion Jennifer Jones is the most-likely representative on the women's side, while Glenn Howard and Kevin Martin will probably battle it out among the men.

Alex Bilodeau, men's moguls
Jennifer Heil calls Bilodeau her "little brother," but this 21-year-old takes a backseat to no one. They are both coached by former freestyler Dominick Gauthier, who is also Heil's boyfriend.

Chan

Patrick Chan, men's figure skating
The world championships next month in Los Angeles will be a big stepping stone for the 18-year-old Torontonian.

Clara Hughes, long track speedskating
She's got two Olympic bronze medals in cycling from the 1996 Atlanta Games and a gold, silver and bronze in Olympic speed skating in '02 and '06.

Tessa Virtue/Scott Moir, ice dancing
It's felt that they've got the goods to win the whole thing in 2010, but that'll be dependent on Virtue being 100 per cent and able to put in the hard training they'll need this summer.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Support is the key

When the 2010 Olympics open in exactly one year's time, my hope is that our athletes will be viewed in much the same manner our soldiers are. No matter what your stance on the conflict overseas or the Olympics coming to Vancouver, the men and women who represent our country deserve your support.

Based on recent results, there should be plenty for Canadians to cheer about at the Games. This past weekend, Canada racked up 30 medals in winter sports competition around the planet, including right here in the lower mainland.

Though the system is far from perfect, the Own the Podium initiative appears to be on track as the spotlight quickly approaches. It seemed like a fantasy when it was introduced earlier this decade, but our athletes have made it a distinct reality with just 365 days to go.

• You won't see throngs of Alex Burrows' jerseys in the crowd at GM Place, but there are virtually no detractors of his work amongst Canucks' fans. He epitomizes the "team first" attitude with his tireless resolve to do whatever is asked of him, and he's now reaping the rewards.

After scoring his career-high 13th goal against the Blues on Tuesday, Burrows has been granted interim status among Vancouver's top six forwards, evidenced by his spot alongside the Sedins at practice yesterday.

ToulBox

Scott Rintoul
scott.rintoul@team1040.ca

Though the promotion is likely temporary, Burrows' ascension is yet another chapter in a career built on elbow grease. The undrafted forward is the poster boy for dreamers in the ECHL, a league that is generally considered limbo for players who will never make it to "the show."

Burrows is the rare exception, and his subsequent rise to the AHL and NHL is nothing short of remarkable. He never complains about his ice time, his role or his linemates, choosing instead to play each shift like it's his last.

Tonight

VS

6 p.m.
Sportsnet/TEAM 1040

The Canucks are heating up as they head into the desert for a date with a cool Coyotes club. Vancouver has won three straight while Phoenix had dropped six consecutive contests prior to a 1-0 win in Dallas last night. The teams split two previous tilts in Vancouver this season.

HAPPY TOGETHER: Ryan Kesler and Mats Sundin have both scored in all three games in which they have been on the same line. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Walker headed to Canadian Hall

BASEBALL Maple Ridge's Larry Walker leads the class of this year's inductees to the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame. Walker was a five-time National League all-star and 1997 NL MVP. He won seven Gold Glove awards and three batting titles while compiling a career .313 batting average. Joining him in the June 20 induction in St. Mary's Ont., is former Blue Jays catcher and Team Canada coach Ernie Whitt, as well as Bernie Soulliere. Roy (Doc) Miller will be inducted posthumously.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bombshell lawsuit claims Roberto Alomar has AIDS

Former Toronto Blue Jay Roberto Alomar is no stranger to the spotlight.

But by any standards, allegations made by a former live-in girlfriend that Alomar has full-blown AIDS are shocking and sensational in the extreme. Alomar is alleged in a lawsuit to have insisted on having unprotected sex, while claiming repeatedly that he was disease free, with ex-girlfriend Ilya Dall, 31. She makes the charges in a bombshell suit that was reported in the New York media yesterday. In papers filed in state and federal court in New York, Dall said Alomar, 41, was told repeatedly by doctors to get tested for HIV and finally did so January 2006. The $15-million US negligence suit alleges: "The test results of him being HIV-positive was given to him and the plaintiff on or about Feb. 6, 2006." Alomar has not commented, but his lawyer, Charles Bach, would not say whether Alomar is HIV-positive. "We believe this is a totally frivolous lawsuit," Bach told the New York Daily News. "These allegations are baseless. He's healthy and would like to keep his health status private."

Dall's relationship with Alomar began in 2002, according to the suit. Alomar retired in 2005. Around that time, court papers allege Alomar told Dall he "was raped by two men after playing a game in New Mexico or a southwestern state, when he was 17 years of age."

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Metro Homes

More price drops

Contractors' selling prices for new homes declined 0.1 per cent between November and December, their third straight monthly decrease, according to Statistics Canada.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Make your outdoors livable

UrbanDweller

Carlyn Yandle

metronews.ca/urbandweller

CARLYN YANDLE PHOTO

Woven resin furniture is a good choice for entertaining in unprotected outdoor spaces.

It's hard to believe but the days will be getting shorter in less than five months. No wonder I'm almost panicked about making a break for the outdoors whenever there's a break in the clouds.

You might also be compelled to fling open the drapes or hoist the blinds at the first sign of sun — but quickly close them if you've got a slimy green view of cracked ceramic planters, flattened perennials and outdoor clutter.

It's far too early to start planting, but this is the right time for planning ways to maximize the use out of even the smallest outdoor space.

Start by imagining how you're likely to use your balcony, patio or deck. I say "likely" because there's no point dreaming up a high-maintenance hanging garden if you're going to be out of town for weeks at a time during the growing months, or setting up for suntanning on a north-facing balcony. Form needs to follow function, so the best layout will be one that fulfills your needs first.

Whether your plans involve entertaining a crowd or retreating from a stressful workday, draw up a list of items that would help further those functions. This is an important step toward reducing impulse-shopping the next time you fall in love with an elaborate outdoor kitchen store display complete with stainless-steel built-in barbecue.

For example, if you'd like to relax over a glass of wine with friends in the evenings, you might want your list to include a coffee-table-height surface for holding glasses and hors d'oeuvres, comfortable seating for six, and mood lighting. If you'd like to provide a space for kids, you might want to a weather-proof toybox bench and maximum play space in your list.

Next, draw out the dimensions of your outdoor space on graph paper, to scale. On another piece of graph paper, cut out some typical sizes of some of the items you require, in proportion to your dimensions, then move the items around on your plan until you find a suitable arrangement.

Once you're satisfied with the plan, send out a mass email to friends or family to see if someone's already got something on your wish list, like extra outdoor end tables or large planters. Craigslist is another good source for basic patio furnishings.

Now get out the TSP and elbow grease, and start setting the stage for the outdoor months.

Carlyn Yandle is a Vancouver journalist with her own room-planning business, Home Reworks; carlyn@homereworks.com.

Play up location to your demo

HouseLeague

Ryan DeLuca

metronews.ca/houseleague

Vancouver is such an amazing city with such a diverse and eclectic group of people living here that it can often be hard to decide what part of the city you want to buy your home in.

What is the best way to help make your choice? See what sorts of stores and shops are in the area.

Store owners spend thousands of dollars researching neighbourhoods when trying to find the perfect space to sell their wares. It is important that they open in an area that is made up of the demographic they are targeting.

It would do a store owner no good to randomly open a nightclub in a part of the city that consists primarily of elderly individuals. So take advantage of all the research that has already been done when shopping for your new home.

Let us look at the fast growing burb of Port Moody for example. In the hotspot shopping districts of Newport and Suter Brook Villages we can find establishments like Starbucks, the ever popular Brown's Social Club, The Running Room and the new and very trendy snow and skateboard outfitter Bobby Paul.

"If you are selling because your area no longer suits your needs make sure you market it to those who are now coming in and not other individuals like yourself who may not wish to live there."

Taking a look at these staples in the community, one can deduce that this area primarily consists of young, health conscious individuals and families who enjoy outdoor activities and in all likelihood have disposable income. So, if that sounds like you, this may be the perfect move.

This research is not only priceless to a buyer, but can serve as a great guide to any seller. Neighbourhoods are constantly changing and evolving. Drastic alterations in such communities as Yaletown, which has gone from warehouse district to high end, need to be marketed to those who are now buying there.

If you are selling because your area no longer suits your needs make sure you market it to those who are now coming in and not other individuals like yourself who may not wish to live there. Advertise your proximity to the area merchants of interest to your buyers to attract them to your listing.

You can even use this demographic information to help stage your home and maximize your price.

Ryan DeLuca is a realtor with Sotheby's International Realty Canada, and host of The Real Estate Minute on Novus TV; rdeluca@sothebysrealty.ca.

Heaven on earth
"Chemically speaking, chocolate really is the world's perfect food." -Michael Levine, nutrition researcher, as quoted in The Emperors of Chocolate: Inside the Secret World of Hershey and Mars. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Food

Green & Black's Organic is the world's first organic chocolate brand. Visit greenandblacks.com/us/recipes.html for recipes using their premium chocolate. Metro News Services

How to get it
Available at most major grocery retailers including Sobeys, Metro, Loblaws and Shoppers Drug Mart, the suggested retail price of Green & Black's Organic bars is $3.89

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

LiquidAssets

Peter Rockwell
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Bubbly love

Here's a question for all the guys out there. Are you ready for Valentine's Day? I'm betting most of you aren't. Since it's on a Saturday this year there's no excuse for you not to whip up a little brunch in bed for your sweetie accompanied by a glass of some liquid passion.

For me there's no sexier beverage than sparkling wine. The sad part is that bubbly has such an iconic association with New Year's Eve that it's hard for way too many of you to see it as anything other than a rare occasion sipper.

We should all be drinking them more often if for no reason other than they are super food friendly. Whether Beluga caviar, cheese-smothered nacho chips or a plate of eggs and hash browns; a sparkler's pairing potential is unlimited.

When it comes to romance in a glass nothing beats a fizzy rosé and the easy-drinking **Freixenet Cordon Rosado Brut** ($12.95 - $14.59) from Spain is an inexpensive charmer with a relaxed dry cherry flavour.

If you're all about the fruit Chile's **Fresita** ($14.50 - $18.55) is infused with the essence of real strawberries. It's a candied, red berry bomb that's wildly addictive and screams Happy Valentine's Day.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

Love by any other name: Chocolate

À la carte

Barb Holland
Metro Food Writer

Ah, Valentine's Day is quickly approaching and to moi, that means a bit of indulgence and, of course, chocolate.

The good news: Yes, there has been a growing body of credible scientific evidence that chocolate contains a host of heart-healthy and mood-enhancing phytochemicals (women know the mood-enhancing part). Cocoa beans are rich in flavanols, natural compounds with antioxidant properties found in red wine, purple grape juice, green tea, cinnamon and dark bittersweet chocolate (to name a few).

However, the more a cocoa bean is processed, the less of these potent flavanols are present. There is a lot of chocolate out there, but the best bang for the nutrition buck is dark chocolate with at least 60 to 70 per cent cocoa.

The not-so-good news: It's an indulgence, yes, but chocolate still has calories and size does matter. Savour and enjoy small quantities of really good quality, delicious chocolate.

Heart Healthier Fudgy Brownies

February is also Heart Month, so in that vein, here is a recipe that satisfies the chocolate-calling voice and is lower in fat and calories. Low fat unsweetened cocoa powder adds a depth of chocolate flavour and ripe banana provides moistness and texture with just a hint of banana flavour.

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 oz (30 g) good quality bittersweet chocolate, chopped
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) butter
- 1 cup (250 ml) granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) mashed ripe banana (1 large banana)
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp (5 ml) vanilla
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) baking powder
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt

METHOD:
Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Spray sides of an 8-inch (20 cm) square baking pan. Line bottom and two sides with parchment paper (to make a parchment paper sling for easy removal).

Combine chocolate and butter in medium glass bowl. Microwave at Medium for 1 minute or until butter is melted. Stir until chocolate is completely melted. Stir in sugar, then mashed banana until blended. Beat in egg and vanilla until smooth.

In a smaller bowl, combine flour, cocoa, baking powder and salt; stir into chocolate mixture until dry ingredients are completely moistened. Spread evenly in prepared pan. Bake 25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean.

Cool pan on wire rack 10 minutes. Run spatula around edges, carefully lift parchment paper sling of brownies to wire rack to cool completely. Cut into 16 squares.

This recipes satisfies the chocolate craving but is lower in fat.

Nutritional information per square: Calories: 106; Fat: 2.8 g; Carbohydrate: 20 g; Protein: 1.25 g; Fibre: 1 g.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

Valentine's Day

try this out

Try adding some vanilla to hot chocolate.

Vanilla sets mood for Valentine's

AROMA Research demonstrates the area of the brain that affects emotions is directly connected to the sense of smell. Studies have also shown the scent of vanilla has a calming effect and helps reduce stress and anxiety — perfect to set the mood this Valentine's Day.

These tips come from Nielsen-Massey Vanillas, purveyors of pure vanillas and fine flavours:
- A few drops of pure vanilla extract on a hot light bulb will help scent the room
- A drop or two behind the ears as the perfect perfume
- Add a quarter teaspoon of vanilla to hot chocolate for a warm treat
- Sprinkle vanilla powder on brownies or chocolate cake. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Canadian Living magazine is on sale now!

Canadian Living recipe of the month

Turkey Meatball Soup

YVONNE DUIVENVOORDEN PHOTO

For more great recipes, visit metronews.ca.

INGREDIENTS:
- 3 cups (750 ml) sodium-reduced chicken broth
- 2 green onions, sliced
- 1each rib celery and carrot, sliced
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each pepper and dried thyme
- 1 sweet red pepper, chopped
- 1 cup (250 ml) vermicelli egg noodles
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) frozen peas, thawed

Turkey Meatballs:
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) grated onion
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) minced fresh parsley
- 1/4 tsp)1 ml) each salt and pepper
- 1 lb (500 g) lean ground turkey or veal

METHOD:
Meatballs: In bowl, combine egg, onion, Parmesan cheese, parsley, salt and pepper; mix in turkey. Shape by 1 tbsp (15 ml) into balls. Bake on greased baking sheet in 400°F (200°C) oven until digital thermometer inserted in centre of several reads 165°F (74°C), about 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, in large saucepan, bring broth and 3 cups (750 ml) water to boil. Add green onions, celery, carrot, pepper and thyme; reduce heat, cover and simmer for 10 minutes.

Add red pepper, egg noodles and meatballs; simmer, covered, until pasta is al dente, about 5 minutes.

Add peas and heat through.

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Illuminate Yaletown!
On Saturday, Feb. 21 at 5:29 p.m. sharp, Vancouver's first outdoor light-as-art show kicks off outside the Hamilton Street Grill (1009 Hamilton St.), which is hosting the Fire and Ice cocktail party. Three cocktails, three hors d'oeuvres for $25. For more info, call 604-331-1511. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Urban Foodie

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Dinner & drinks for 2:
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It used to be one of the priciest menus in the city, in a room that smacked of nouveau institutional chill. It's still high on price point, but the room is now a warm, small boudoir of a space that cossets diners, instead of confining them. The service is warmer (and better) by several degrees as well.

Our three-course prix fixe menu ($98) was four pages long, with five selections per course. Nova Scotia lobster bisque was poured out tableside over artichokes, lobster mousse and a tarragon froth.

Beet and vodka-cured hamachi was just amazing, topped with white sturgeon caviar and horseradish cream. A pheasant and foie gras terrine combined tiny pickled mushrooms with meat so rich that it was almost indistinguishable from the foie — a little of that goes a long way.

My main of duck in a ginger-pomegranate glaze was delightful, especially the tiny duck spring rolls that just melted on the tongue and the lovely yam-banana puree.

The flavour pairings on this menu may not be to everyone's liking, but if you're in the mood for an adventurous and innovative meal, this is definitely your ticket.

On the web

- Read the full article online at metronews.ca/vancouver/columnist/40411.
- Chew more on Anya's blog at metronews.ca/vancouver/blog/136310.

ANYA LEVYKH/FOR METRO VANCOUVER
Polderside duck with yam-banana puree, red cabbage confit.

The Many Sides of Pinot: Pinot Noir Icewine

One generally doesn't think of Pinot Noir in the same category as Muscat or Riesling, but its potential as a great dessert wine is well known in wine circles and for good reason. The darker berry and caramel palate of most Pinot Noir icewines make them the perfect accompaniment to dark chocolate desserts or as a stand-alone sipper post-supper. One to try: **Paradise Ranch 2005 Pinot Noir Icewine**, $50.01 at BCLS or VQA stores. The cranberry, cinnamon and pecan aromas are enough to incite a night full of lust.

Dining out

CHEESEY ROMANCE
The Refinery (1115 Granville St.) is offering a special Valentine's Day menu for $69 per couple. Explore France, Italy, Spain and B.C. with cheeses like brie de meaux and taleggio, mussels with chorizo and prosciutto di Parma. Call 604-687-8001 or visit therefineryvancouver.com

LITTLE BIG MOUTH
Figmint (500 West 12 Ave.) has launched La Petite Grande Bouche (Little Big Mouth), a special prix fixe option: Two courses for $30 or three courses for $35. Options include white onion and Riesling soup with soft poached egg, braised lamb cheeks, ricotta gnocchi and dessert. Call 604-875-3312.

In brief

ANDREY DURBACH'S Parkside Restaurant (1906 Haro St.) will be closing on March 1 and reopening later in the month as a second location of his popular La Buca Trattoria.

BARBARA-JO'S Books to Cooks has announced the winner of their 2009 Cookbook Awards—Fat: An Appreciation of a Misunderstood Ingredient, by Jennifer McLagen. You'll wonder why you stayed away so long ...

Hot accessory
Stay up to date on news and fashion with the HP Mini 1000 Vivienne Tam Edition digital clutch, $799.99. Available at Best Buy. **KIM ELBO/FOR METRO CANADA**

Style

A fragrance that says it all

Send an intimate message to your sweetheart this Valentine's Day with Gapbody's unisex, proactive scent, The Lover ($42). It is a velvety apricot-fused scent with shimmering mint leaf and sexy patchouli notes. The understated, elegant bottle comes inscribed with the fragrance's name and its meaning: "The Lover: 1. An individual who thrives on human connection. 2. A person who desires another. 3. Someone motivated by their heart. 4. One who is consumed with passion." **METRO NEWS SERVICE**

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Paint the town red

Michael Kors Chronograph watch with a poly-urethane wrapped stainless steel bracelet, $235. Available at Michael Kors boutique in Oakridge.

Valentine's**Day**

Besides it being one of spring's hottest emerging colours, throw on a little rouge in celebration of Valentine's Day.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

Printed scarf, Old Navy, $14.50.

Red scoop-neck T-shirt, Smart Set, $14.

Synthetic leather purse with heart lock and key charm, Aldo, $45.

Red blouse, Le Chateau, $69.95.

Trench coat, Smart Set, $75.

Town Shoes label, patent leather $125

Elsa Peretti lacquer bangle, Tiffany & Co., $485,

Global**Style**

Kenya Hunt

Read Kenya, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle and check out her blog at kenyastyle.com

Style **File**

Kim Elbo

kim.elbo@gmail.com

ask kim

How often should I change my bras?

Bras tend to stretch out over time. My tip is to buy a bra that fits perfectly when you hook it to the first of hook fasteners. As the bra stretches hook your bra fasteners to the second or third set of hooks so that the bra will become tighter. La Senza recommends that you replace your bras once every six to eight months and buy white, black and nude bras to interchange with different coloured outfits.

E-mail your style questions to kim.elbo@gmail.com.

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.

Don't forget the details this Valentine's Day

$76

Warhol Floral
Designer: BB Dakota
Shop: Pleasant Girl
Address: 2541 Main St.
Call Pleasant 604-677-4024

$140

Itsy Bitsy Hearts
Designer: Isabelle Dunlop
Shop: Valley of the Dolls
Address: 4332 Main St.
votdboutique.com

$155

My favourite

Sweet Sleeves
Designer: Narcissist
Shop: Narcissist
Address: Various Locations
.narcissist.com

My favourite

$76

Country Lace
Designer: Lily & Jae
Price: bra $40, panties $36
Shop: Hot Box Accessories
Address: 2560 Main St.
hotboxbc.com

$86

Naughty Dots
Designer: Third Floor Designs
Price: bra $48, panties $38
Shop: Third Floor Designs
Address: n/a
thirdfloordesign.com

$185

Bedroom Mix Up
Designer: Freya
Price: bra $120, panties $65
Shop: Dianes Lingerie
Address: 2950 Granville St.
ferrisinternational.ca

Dresses

Whether you're dating someone or single, love is in the air for everyone this week. Romance your way into his heart by wearing a flattering floral dress or subliminally get him in the mood with a dress adorned with sweet hearts. Brightly coloured abstract floral print dresses are a hot item in stores right now. If you're looking for that one special dress that no one else will have, check out Canadian designer Isabella Dunlop, she creates one-of-a-kind dresses with ornate stitching detail and various print linings.

Underwear

If you're planning a romantic weekend, don't forget the details. What you wear under the dress is just as important as the dress itself. Keep things simple and sweet and match your floral or heart dress with a floral or heart bra and undie set. If you're not into the girly frills of flowers and lace, then ease into something like boy shorts and subdued polka dot patterns.

tip: Had a passionate candle-lit dinner that resulted in a little wax being spilt? Apply ice to the waxed area or place the garment in the freezer. Scrape off as much of the frozen wax as possible, then launder in the hottest water recommended for the fabric. (textileaffairs.com)

For kissable lips
Nivea LipCare CareGloss & Shine, left, comes in red and pink. Available at major drug, pharmacy and mass merchandise stores across Canada for $3.59 each. For more, go to nivea.ca. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Valentine's Day

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

All for love

Show them you love them — without breaking the bank

#1

#2

#3

#4

#5

#6

#7

#8

#9

#1 Diamonds are forever

Visit: walmart.ca
10K diamond heart pendants in white gold ($89.88 each), at Wal-Mart.

#2 An apple a day

Visit: fruits-passion.com
Effervescent Hearts for the Bath, in Apple Illusion scent ($6.50).

#3 Butter her up

Visit: cakebeauty.com
Sweet Cheeks Buttery Body Bubbles cinnamon-scented body wash ($18).

#4 X-rated treat

Visit: xratedfusion.com
X-Rated Fusion Liqueur ($35.55 SRP). Perfect with champagne, or over ice.

#5 Make a splash

Visit: lush.ca
Hello Sailor gift set includes sea salt shower scrub rub ($12.95).

#6 Capture his heart

At electronics retailers
This Olympus FE-360 camera has 3x optical zoom and 8 megapixels ($129).

#7 Fun and games

Visit: chapters.indigo.ca
This Scrabble Heart Edition ($19.99 SRP) is available at Chapters Indigo.

#8 For the coffee lover

Visit: hallmark.com
My Guy mug ($9.95), available at Hallmark Gold Crown stores.

#9 All about romance

Visit: gapcanada.com
Heart-Stamped Boxers in soft cotton ($18), available at Gap.

Cover girl
Michelle Obama is making history again — by becoming only the second first lady (the first was Hillary Clinton in 1998) to appear on the cover of Vogue magazine. Obama was photographed by Annie Leibovitz for the cover. **PEOPLE.COM**

Entertainment

Most bankable

Will Smith has been named the most bankable star in Hollywood. The actor topped Forbes.com's Star Currency list, which ranks stars according to their financial power at the box office. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Lily Allen is irresistible

Lily **Allen**

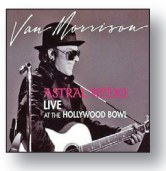
Album: It's Not Me, It's You
Label: Capitol/EMI
Rating: ●●●½

A POTTY-MOUTHED singer with the voice of an innocent school-girl, it's hard not to find Lily Allen appealing. She opens her second album with the dance-grooved Everyone's At It, a surprising condemnation of our pharmaceutical culture. Isn't this the same girl who just last month said cocaine was "no problem?" But it's this conniving flightiness that is so irresistible, especially when she's taking a non-judgmental look at conspicuous consumption (The Fear), discoursing on god (Him), or having a pleasant chat with the former president (F*** You). Lily also has some interesting ideas about sex, actually expecting to receive as much as she gives, both in quantity and quality. It's all right there with a synth-pop-country (yes, that's a banjo) flavour on Not Fair, even more so on the nasty Never Gonna Happen.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Van **Morrison**

Album: Astral Weeks Live At The Hollywood Bowl
Label: Listen To The Lion/EMI
Rating: ●●●



VAN MORRISON'S MYSTIC masterpiece, Astral Weeks, has long been considered a musical landmark. Recorded in 1968, it's swirling vocals, improvisational themes and acoustic virtuosity broke acres of new ground. It was quite unlike anything that came before or after. So why then has Mr. Morrison released a live version? Not to make the lyrics any more clearer. Although his poetry is kindly documented in the liner notes, Morrison's mumble remains impenetrable. This live version is close, but no substitute. Which makes you wonder if Morrison released it more for business reasons, than artistic ones.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Music**Reviews**

music@metronews.ca

Dan **Auerbach**

Album: Keep It Hid
Label: Nonesuch/Warner
Rating: ●●●½

CHOP THE BLACK Keys in half, and quiet ballads head-butt raucous, raw bluesy-rock. Keep It Hid frees singer-guitarist Dan Auerbach from his band's constraints, allowing for Raconteur-ish experiments with layered guitars, upright bass, keyboards, banjos and a crowd of friends and family. Some of the best moments in the album come through transitions between songs. The quiet acoustics of Trouble Weights a Ton contrasts with sludgy rockers like I Want Some More or The Prowl, as Auerbach uses sequence to play with tempo and atmosphere. In one head-nodding progression, mellow burner Keep it Hid butts against the shuffling My Last Mistake before rocketing to When I Left the Room's psychedelia and Street Walkin's Hendrix-influenced stomp. Mash-up!

Rob McMahon/for Metro Canada

Read additional reviews and listen to this week's reviewed music by following links at metronews.ca/music

EMI MUSIC PHOTO

It's Not Me, It's You, the second album from British pop star Lily Allen, was released this week.

Dan Auerbach loosens up

Black Keys guitarist goes big on solo album

ROB MCMAHON
for Metro Canada

Add Dan Auerbach's name to the list of members of blues-rock duos who go big on solo albums.

While it runs with the same attention to detail and musical traditions as his work with the Black Keys, Auerbach's new disc Keep It Hid punches up sonic contrasts and amasses more instruments and collaborators. Take dynamics. When sequencing the album, Auerbach wanted songs to butt against one another. The track list set up like an album-focused LP from the '60s or early '70s. As a result, a rocker like I Want Some More unfolds with help from its relationship to predecessor Trouble Weights a Ton.

"I like records that have an ebb and flow — that act like scenes in a movie. I like it when albums start with quiet pieces, to get the music centred and the speakers balanced," he said. "(Album opener) Trouble Weights a Ton is quieter than other tracks, so you need to turn up your speakers to listen, which then makes the next song louder when it hits."

Auerbach sees the solo album as an extension of the Keys. Rather than he and drummer Patrick Carney working out songs, he turned to a bigger group, including the uncle who taught him to play guitar and singer Jessica Lea Mayfield. Speaking of a rationale that echoes Jack White's shift from the White Stripes to the Ranconteurs, the idea was to loosen the Keys' self-imposed restrictions.

"I'm not trying to reinvent myself, I just want to work with other people … (and do things) there isn't an opportunity to do with the Black Keys," he said.

Like family stories passed around at reunions, Auerbach sees music as transferring ideas between generations, reinterpreted at each juncture but consistently referencing the past. For example, Whispered Words, which was written by his father, features guitar, drums, and an upright bass playing live as an homage to Motown. "Music is grammar, language, and it's passed on, generation to generation," he said.

"We played Whispered Words live in the studio, and cut it to mono stereo. I love that, and it's not something the Black Keys could do. We record live, but not live to mono … in the Motown recording style."

GETTY IMAGES

Keep It Hid is the new album from Black Keys guitarist Dan Auerbach.

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metro
Do it daily.

Madonna, Moore to host Oscar party
Madonna and her actress friend Demi Moore will jointly throw an Oscar party on Feb. 22. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Marine life to the IMAX

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

A scene from Under The Sea 3-D.

Movie **feature**

Under The Sea 3-D is the latest visually stunning documentary to grace IMAX screens. If you've never experienced one of the 3-D documentaries produced by IMAX, you're missing out on one of the most immersive cinematic experiences around.

Producer Toni Myers has been working in this unique format since it's humble origins, editing North Of Superior. "That was the very first IMAX film, made in 1970," she said. Quickly seduced by the possibilities of IMAX, Myers has indeed been working in the format in various capacities ever since. She served as a producer on Under The Sea 3-D and is quick to acknowledge the difficulties of shooting in IMAX.

According to Myers, the 3-D cameras used for the film were "the size of a bar fridge and by the time you get it in the housing it weighs 1,300 pounds."

The cameras had to be operated by two cameramen simultaneously and needed to be hoisted out of the water with a crane to reload film after only three minutes had been shot.

"If you think of those beautiful underwater landscape shots tracking towards a giant cuttlefish and consider that it's two guys pushing a 1,300-pound camera through the water, it's pretty amazing."

Dive teams of eight people were required to operate the cameras, but the technical challenges were hardly the only difficulty. "I think we had to travel something like 600 miles to a new location just to find the sea snakes we wanted because they're so depleted."

Your bloody Valentine

Do you have what it takes to survive Feb. 14?

MattersofHeart

Steve Collins

A Valentine's Special

"The surest way of survivng Mandatory romantic Gesture Day is being a little less of a schmuck to your beloved the other 364 days of the year."

Valentine's**Day**

Here we go again. Feb. 14 pitilessly approaches, gentlemen, and you have to think of something fast. I, of all people, have been assigned to help you. This may not end well.

The entire premise that the romantic onus is on you may seem sexist, but in my experience, women have very little to worry about on Valentine's Day, apart from how abjectly you're about to blow it. The ideal gift for most guys I know is the same thing every year. (Two hints: It costs nothing and fits perfectly).

For you, things are trickier. On Monday, my Metro colleague Anne Hines offered some perceptive if terrifying advice: "Begin with the gift. The gift is vital. But do not stress yourself thinking a gift has to be big or expensive. It just has to be perfect … To a woman, a gift says, 'This is how I see you. This is how I feel about you in my deepest most truthful heart of hearts.'"

Yeah, thanks, Anne. That's a load off. Just find the flawless, enduring symbol of your souls entwined. In a store somewhere. By Saturday. Shall I compare thee to this heart-shaped pendant thou shalt never wear again?

Even if by some miracle or fluke you nail it this year with the perfect gift, the perfect day, the perfect words, what about next year? How are you going to top yourself?

The surest way of surviving Mandatory Romantic Gesture Day is being a little less of a schmuck to your beloved the other 364 days of the year, and hence having less to make up for with this annual Hail Mary. This does you no good right now, of course, and for that I am truly sorry. You should probably stop wasting your ever-shortening time reading this.

Also, never underestimate the power of dumb luck. That was my way out, my only way. I found someone so perfect for me that, among her many thrilling virtues, she hates the pressure of these occasions, too, so we skip them. (This, I know, is no good to you either. You can't have her.)

Neither of us has ever broken down and unilaterally bought a surprise gift, thereby violating our mutual non-aggravation pact and upending our domestic nirvana.

Even as our friends mock our lameness, we smugly congratulate each other on having beaten the system.

But she's got a birthday coming up, a big one.

Here we go again.

Steve Collins lives, writes and walks in Ottawa.

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 2/12/09	251	308	3	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things (N)		Doc Zone "Love Interrupted"		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6	JOY	E! News	The Insider	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim	2009 Orange British Academy Film Awards (N) (CC)				News (N)
	254	-	8	M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		Metropia
	250	321	9	CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N) (CC)		ER "The Family Man" (N)		News (N)
	-	-	10	OMNI	The Daily	Frasier (CC)	Smallville "Prey" (CC)		Supernatural "Yellow Fever"		Scrubs (CC)	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Survivor: Tocantins (CC)		The Office (N)	Kink in Hair	The Unit (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	Wife Swap "Bonnett/Linkins"		Eleventh Hour "Pinocchio" (N)		(:02) Private Practice (N)		News (CC)
	253	359	13	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Ugly Betty (N) (CC)		30 Rock	30 Rock (N)	Hell's Kitchen (CC)		EP Daily
	-	-	14	CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Smallville "Prey" (CC)		Supernatural "Yellow Fever"		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15	CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Survivor: Tocantins (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(:01) Eleventh Hour (N) (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim	The Office (N)	(:31) 30 Rock	ER "The Family Man" (N)		News (N)
	602	568	19	W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Divine Design	House	Confidential	House	Divine Design-Basements		Maxed Out
	288	380	21	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ugly Betty (N) (CC)		Grey's Anatomy (N) (CC)		(:02) Private Practice (N)		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23	KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	The Train Robbers ★★★ (1973) John Wayne, Ann-Margret.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27	PBS	Steves Europe	Field Guide	Doc Martin (CC)		Poirot "The Third-Floor Flat"		Globe Trekker "Pakistan"		Enlightenment
	290	382	28	FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	The 40th NAACP Image Awards (Same-day Tape) (CC)				News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	43	PBS	6 Days and	Conquistadors (CC) (DVS)		Summer Wine	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		This Old Hse.	Yankee Shop
	296	654	34	SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	The Insider	Entertainment	Paid Program
	298	653	65	TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville "Prey" (CC)		Supernatural "Yellow Fever"		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36	WGN	WGN News	NewsRadio	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	67	WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	According-Jim	Paid Program	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76	STR	British Film Awards		News (N)	Late Show-Letterman		Late Late Show		Will & Grace	Seinfeld
news	502	390	26	NW	Living City: A Critical Guide		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Living City: A Critical Guide		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22	RSP	NHL Hockey: Canucks at Coyotes			Sportsnet	Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30	TSN	Dog Show	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			NASCAR Racing Sprint Cup -- Gatorade Duel at Daytona.				SportsCentre
	411	457	49	OLN	Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		Survivorman (CC)		Mantracker "Bruce & Sabrina"		Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		Survivorman
	410	403	54	SCR	(6:30) NBA Basketball Boston Celtics at Dallas Mavericks.				Score Tonight		Final Score	Final Score	Final Score
	417	406	55	SC	(6:00) NASCAR Racing Sprint Cup -- Gatorade Duel at Daytona.					NASCAR Victory Lane			Performance
	416	409	144	GLF	Extra Time	Footballers	Gol TV News	Extra Time	Soccer Cam	Soccer Cam	Gol TV News	Extra Time	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25	YTV	H2O, Just Add	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Zixx Level	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	The Matrix ★★★ (1999, Science Fiction) Keanu Reeves. (CC)			
	557	541	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	53	TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Max & Ruby	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5	KNO	Recreat. Eden	e2 (N) (CC)	Michael Palin's New Europe		Adventures in Architecture		Vertical City	e2 (CC)	Crystal Fear
	575	583	20	CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Ult. Coyote Ugly Search		Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith
	570	580	24	MM	Punk'd (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Punk'd (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	Video on Trial	Technical Diff.	Spotlight
	600	564	29	H&G	Home to Flip	Real Renos	Holmes on Homes (CC)		The Fix (CC)	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip	Real Renos	Holmes
	615	520	31	A&E	The Beast "Bitsy Big-Boy" (N)		The Beast "Bitsy Big-Boy"		The First 48 (CC)		The First 48 After the arrests.		The Beast
	628	584	32	SPKE	(6:00) TNA iMPACT! (N) (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		DEA		Real Vice	I Bet You Will	Disorderly
	521	560	34	TLC	Heli-Loggers (N) (CC)		Street Customs		Heli-Loggers (CC)		Overhaulin' "Spaced Out"		Sports Dis
	616	522	39	SHO	The Outer Limits "Glitch"		Love-Death	Love-Death	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Grandma's Boy ★ (2006) Doris Roberts. (CC)		
	620	523	40	BVO	Metal: Head	Manitowapow	Law & Order (CC)		Without a Trace (CC)		Picture Claire ★ (2001) Juliette Lewis. (CC)		
	601	562	41	SLC	The Biggest Loser		ET Canada	Matchmaker	The Biggest Loser		Trading Spouses		Biggest Loser
	520	505	42	DIS	MythBusters "Blind Driving"		Daily Planet (CC)		Deadliest Catch (CC)		Machines of Malice		Machines
	522	506	44	HIS	NCIS "Hung Out to Dry"		Lost Worlds (CC)		Deep Wreck Mysteries (CC)		NCIS "Hung Out to Dry"		Ancestors
	627	528	45	SPC	Zombiemania (CC)		Stargate SG-1 (CC)		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Star Trek: Ent.
	294	650	47	TBS	My Best Friend's Wedding ★★★ (1997) Julia Roberts. (CC)				Sex and-City	Sex and-City	(:10) The Legend of Zorro ★★ (2005) (PA)		
	619	525	48	TROP	Make	Fashion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	603	561	52	FN	Family	Glutton	Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Challenge (CC)		Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Family
	626	547	57	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	VIP	Gong Show	Daily Show
	320	621	60	CEN	(6:25) Weirdsville ★★ (2007)		Sleepwalking ★★ (2008) Nick Stahl. (CC)			(:45) We Own the Night ★★ (2007) Joaquin Phoenix. (CC)			
	581	566	101	MTV	The Girls of Hedsor Hall		MTV Live	After	Making the Band 4 (CC)		The Girls of Hedsor Hall		MTV Live
	261	394	102	V	(6:00) Kiss Me Goodbye ★★		Poltergeist: The Legacy		Made in Heaven ★★ (1987, Fantasy) Timothy Hutton. (CC)				Paid Program
	-	-	109	MUL	Eight Heroes	Mom's-Upset	Vancouver	Kahkashan	Dheeyan Ghar	Sadabahar	Desi-Mama	Desi Rhythms	Patrol World

critics'corner

30 Rock
It's not as if it falls on the same day every year or anything ... . Not realizing it's going to be the ultimate lovers holiday, Liz (Tina Fey) insists she and Drew (John Hamm) have their first official date on Valentine's Day. Meanwhile, Jack (Alec Baldwin) prepares himself for an unconventional holiday at church with new girlfriend Elisa (guest star Salma Hayek). Then Kenneth (Jack McBrayer) tries to win the affections of a new staffer. 9:30 PM on CITY

The 40th NAACP Image Awards
It's the Berry and Perry Show! Oscar-winning actress Halle Berry and actor-screenwriter Tyler Perry share hosting duties for this milestone edition of the awards celebrating diversity in the arts and honoring achievers of color. Two Nobel Peace Prize winners, former Vice President Al Gore and Kenyan activist Wangari Muta Maathai, are this year's recipients of the Chairman's Award. This is also a milestone for the NAACP: its 100th anniversary. 8 PM on FOX

Romeo and Juliet stokes knife fears

THEATRE The director of a production of Romeo and Juliet at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London consulted a police chief on Wednesday over fears that free shows for 10,000 teenagers may unwittingly glamorize knife crime.

Bill Buckhurst discussed the violent plot with Metropolitan Police Commander Steve Allen.

"The play contains scenes where two young men die from rival families and the director wanted to involve police because of comparisons with current real-life situations in terms of knife crime," a spokesman for the theatre said.

The plot will not be altered but the director will take on board police recommendations about the use of knives to make sure the production is not seen to glorify violence. REUTERS

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In Theatres February 6

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Paris sees the light... er, Twilight

Paris Hilton finally gets all the fuss about the movie Twilight. She recently saw the hit film and is now smitten with Robert Pattinson. "Now I understand all the hype. I just didn't get it before, but now it all makes sense," Hilton told E! News. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Courtney's moving to London

RELOCATION Courtney Love is moving to the U.K., femalefirst.co.uk reports. The former Hole singer is growing tired of life in Los Angeles and is planning to buy a house in Britain for her and daughter Frances Bean, 16.

Courtney said: "Buckinghamshire is where I want to go. I read Country Life magazine every week. I'm fed up with Los Angeles. It's full of crazy people. People criticize Britain but it's still a cleaner, safer place to live than Hollywood."

However, Courtney — who is also looking at properties in London's Primrose Hill district, close to the home of close friends Chris Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow — will only make the move if her arch-rival Madonna remains in her native America, where she has been since splitting from director Guy Ritchie.

She added to Britain's Daily Star newspaper: "Madonna had better stay the hell away from London when I move here to live. There's no room for us both."

Although Courtney and Gwyneth are now close friends, the Iron Man actress admits she was left "devastated" by their first meeting 10 years ago.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Harry's in hot water yet again

BEHAVIOUR After putting his foot in his mouth with comments about a Pakistani army officer, Prince Harry is now under fire again for another racially insensitive remark, having apparently told a comic, "You don't sound like a black chap," people.com reports.

Harry, allegedly attempting to be funny, delivered the line in November, when black comedian Stephen K. Amos performed at Prince Charles' 60th birthday party. Amos spoke about the incident this week on a U.K. chat show. At the time, recalled Amos, "I wanted to say, 'How is I supposed to sound?'"

Reaction to the exchange has been strong. "Many young people will be disgusted by his remark," said Naomi Byron, national secretary of Youth Against Racism in Europe, reports the U.K.'s Daily Mirror.

"But it is not just Prince Harry that is at fault. The aristocratic, rich circles he moves in obviously don't have a problem with this kind of racist stereotyping."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rihanna cancels Jakarta concert

FALLOUT Rihanna's concert scheduled in Jakarta today has been cancelled, the show's tour promoter has announced — citing "an assault case involving Rihanna's boyfriend," singer Chris Brown, people.com is quoting published reports as saying.

Rihanna, 20, withdrew from performing at the Grammys on Sunday — the same day Brown, 19, was arrested and charged with making a criminal threat. He was subsequently released on $50,000 US bail.

On Tuesday, her show in Malaysia was similarly cancelled. The Jakarta cancellation marks the second time Rihanna has pulled out of a concert in the Indonesian capital.

In November, the show didn't go on after the Australian government issued a travel warning in the wake of the executions of the three men convicted of the 2002 Bali bombings. People.com is also reporting that new details have emerged about the midnight altercation between Brown and Rihanna that led to Brown being booked on a felony criminal threat charge on Sunday.

"Chris knocked her around," a source close to the couple tells People magazine. "Black eye, blood, bruises. She had to be treated by a doctor."

The site also alleges a police source has confirmed to People the singer suffered a black eye as well as "a swollen split lip and two red and purple contusions on either side of her forehead."

The website continues by saying the source, who described police photos of Rihanna, added, "She looked distraught and in a lot of pain. Her eyes were closed because she was looking down."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Rourke's new nickname: Half-Day Mickey

ANTICS Mickey Rourke's costars have nicknamed him Half-Day Mickey, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actor has been working on new movie 13 but had to take so much time off to promote The Wrestler that his castmates, including Control star Sam Riley, Nil By Mouth actor Ray Winstone and rapper 50 Cent gave him the jokey moniker. Sam revealed: "He was always jetting back and forth so we called him Half-Day Mickey. "He'd always p— off and do whatever it was he was meant to be doing somewhere else. I think he really feels lucky and he's just milking it for all it's worth. And good on him."

Rourke wasn't the only member of the 13 cast to be given a nickname. Sam added to Total Film: "Ray calls 50 Cent Two Bob. He'd go, 'Which one's Two Bob, which one's Two Bob, Sammy?' 'He's the big one behind you mate!'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Surgery prep procedure leaves Usher's wife in grave condition

ILLNESS Usher's wife reportedly suffered cardiac and respiratory arrest during a liposuction operation, femalefirst.co.uk is reporting.

Tameka Foster was due to undergo the cosmetic surgery at Sirio-Libanes Hospital in Sao Paulo, Brazil, last Friday but fell seriously ill when she was being anesthetized for the procedure.

She was then induced into a coma for 24 hours, and is now said to be recovering, the gossip website alleges.

A spokesman for the hospital refused to comment on the allegations published by Brazilian news website G1, saying: "The family has demanded total privacy. The hospital is barred from giving any information."

The website reports that it has been claimed U.S. neurosurgeon Gabriel Hunt, who works at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, flew to Sao Paulo to help treat Tameka over the weekend. He left on Monday but refused to comment, it adds.

Usher cancelled concerts in the U.S. and rushed to his wife's side as soon as she fell ill.

His spokeswoman Simone Smalls has not released details on Foster's illness, only saying: "Tameka is in stable condition. Her husband is with her at the hospital. The family requests privacy at this difficult time."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Dane stays mum on co-star rumours

DEPARTURES With rumours swirling that Katherine Heigl and T.R. Knight are soon going to be leaving the hit show Grey's Anatomy, Ellen DeGeneres decided to try to get some answers out of their co-star, Eric Dane, when he stopped by her show. But Dane remained mum, deferring to series creator Shonda Rhimes. "I know you want to know, and I get it," Dane said. "But until the boss says this is going down, it's not happening."

DeGeneres wasn't satisfied, though, following up with, "OK, but I see from your eyes, they're leaving."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jessica's 'so happy' with new curves

IMAGE Jessica Simpson made her first live TV appearance since her much-scrutinized weight gain, performing her song Pray Out Loud on CBS' The Early Show yesterday morning, usmagazine.com reports. Simpson — who taped her spot in Nashville, where she helped announce nominations for the 44th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards — briefly addressed the hype over her new curves after anchor Maggie Rodriguez mentioned all the support the singer has been receiving from fans.

"Honestly, I am right where I'm supposed to be. I am so happy," Simpson said. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Clooney said to be dating Bhutto niece

ROMANCE Hollywood playboy George Clooney is reportedly smitten with Fatima Bhutto, the 26-year-old niece of slain Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto. The two met at an international conference last year, and Clooney fell for her quickly, according to the National Enquirer.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Weather Network
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Friday Sunny 6° / -3°
Saturday Variable 4° / 0°

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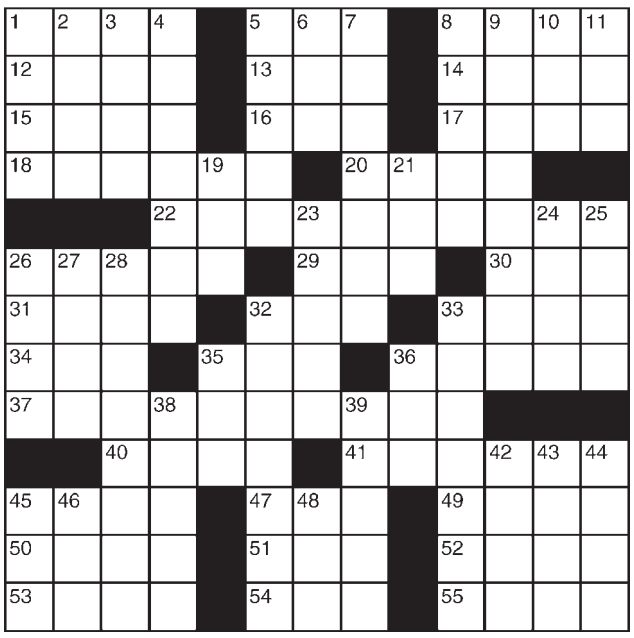

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

5				1				8
	1				9	3	5	
	6		2	7				
	3					5		
1		5				2		4
		7					6	
				6	8		2	
	2	3	1				4	
9				4				5

Crossword across

1 Seed covering
5 Shrill bark
8 State with conviction
12 Conflagration
13 Leading lady
14 Bygone VHS alternative
15 Oriental nursemaid
16 Scratch
17 St. Louis landmark
18 Call a spade a shovel?
20 Price
22 Woman of letters?
26 Horsey laugh
29 The whole enchilada
30 Gear tooth
31 Benedict XIV, e.g.
32 Expert
33 Enthusiastic
34 Tackle the comestibles
35 "Whadja say?"
36 Wise lawgiver
37 Staff-meeting prop, often
40 Options list
41 Render defenseless
45 Leno's prominence
47 Pi follower
49 Otherwise
50 TV clown
51 Pinch
52 Exploding star
53 Crystal gazer
54 Collection
55 Agcy.

Crossword down

1 Somewhere out there
2 Frost
3 Persia, now
4 English Channel port
5 Mocha's country
6 Actress Gardner
7 Fabric used for sheets
8 Disconcert
9 Upright
10 List-ending abbr.
11 "Go, team!"
19 Wrestling surface
21 Pussycat's partner
23 Topped chip
24 Not "for here"
25 Big Apple cardinal
26 Jet forth
27 Ancient mariner?
28 Make as good as possible
32 Moderate brown shades
33 Unexpected blessing
35 Coop denizen
36 — Lanka
38 Choir member
39 Take as one's own
42 Burn soother
43 Answer an invite
44 Vegan's no-no
45 Couric's employer
46 Weeding tool
48 Waste not a moment

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

5	9	2	4	8	7	1	3	6
8	3	6	5	2	1	9	4	7
7	1	4	6	3	9	8	5	2
3	5	1	8	4	2	7	6	9
2	7	8	9	5	6	3	1	4
6	4	9	7	1	3	5	2	8
9	6	3	2	7	5	4	8	1
1	8	7	3	6	4	2	9	5
4	2	5	1	9	8	6	7	3

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Sizzling Beef Fajitas

INGREDIENTS:
50 ml (1/4 cup) fresh lime juice
5 ml (1 tsp) chili powder
4 ml (3/4 tsp) oregano
4 ml (3/4 tsp) ground coriander
1 ml (1/4 tsp) black pepper
375 g (12 oz) well-trimmed beef sirloin
2 large onions, thickly sliced
2 large red peppers, cut lengthwise into flat panels
50 ml (1/4 cup) minced cilantro
4 flour tortillas, about 18 cm (7 in.) each
1 l (4 cups) shredded romaine lettuce
50 ml (1/4 cup) sour cream

METHOD:
1. Combine lime juice, chili powder, oregano, coriander and black pepper in medium bowl.
2. Place beef in shallow bowl and spoon 2 tbsp lime mixture on top; turn to coat both sides. Let stand while broiling vegetables.
3. Preheat broiler. Spray broiler pan with non-stick cooking spray. Place onions and pepper pieces, skin-side up, on broiler pan. Broil 10 cm (4 inches) from heat until peppers are charred and onions are golden brown, 10 minutes. Remove, and when cool enough to handle, peel pepper and thickly slice. Add peppers and onions to lime juice mixture in bowl. Add cilantro and toss.
4. Broil beef to medium, eight minutes, turning once. Let stand five minutes, then thinly slice. Broil tortillas until lightly browned, 15 seconds per side.
5. Place beef, peppers, onions, lettuce, sour cream and tortillas in serving containers. Let each person fill his or her own tortilla.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Use humour with a new admirer. A puzzling professional will create an amusing invention. Tread softly around an ailing person.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Protect yourself when dealing with legal issues. Don't push your ideals in a war between rookies. A person makes an insensitive comment.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You must be patient with unreliable people. It's not a good time to make light of serious problems. A comical grumbler will set a date with you.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Guidance comes to you in unusual ways. Don't announce your intentions to strangers. Make sure that that your reality check doesn't bounce.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Avoid snooping and being too serious. An irritated friend is especially sensitive to teasing today. Something that happens will astound you.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You'll get a surprise if you forgot something. Don't be unnerved by a strange event. Frustration with obsolete rules won't be eased by fighting.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Someone's admiration gives you some pleasure. You need to think about what went wrong. Relationship decisions perplex you and cause delays.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A blissful guy makes you a tantalizing offer. A funny girl gives you a helping hand. A man has something valuable to share.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Independence is more important when procedures change. Don't delay fixing damaged equipment. Unexpected events keep you hopping.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Today's miserable moments will soon be forgotten. Kindred spirits will meet your challenges. You'll be enthusiastic when amazing things unfold.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Accept a kind invitation from an encouraging friend. Be sincere when praising somebody. Financial plans must be adjusted as soon as possible.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You can be sure that your hard work will build up a project. Think hard before refusing an invitation. Slow down before making decisions.

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This day in history

FEB. 12, 1870: Women gain the right to vote in Utah Territory.
FEB. 12, 1909: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is founded.
FEB. 12, 1934: The Austrian Civil War begins.
FEB. 12, 1990: Carmen Lawrence becomes the first female premier in Australian History when she becomes premier of Western Australia.
FEB. 12, 1999: President Bill Clinton is acquitted by the United States Senate in his impeachment trial.
FEB. 12, 2000: Charles Schultz's famous comic strip Peanuts prints its last comic.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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